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SERIES

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SEGA[®]

KNUCKLES[™]

THE ECHIDNA

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PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
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SPAZ
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BOOK TWENTY

The **Forbidden Zone**

Part Two of Three

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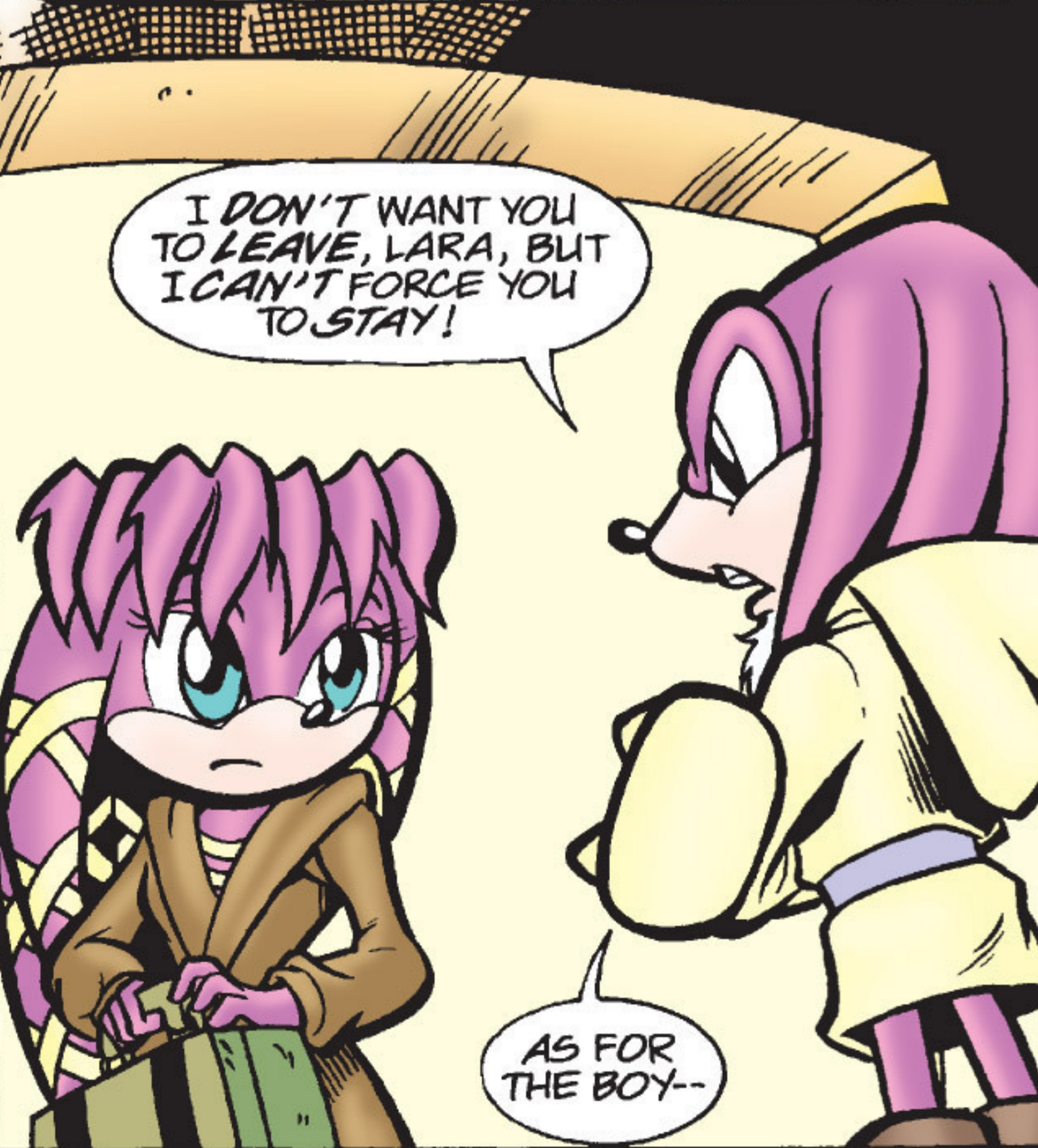
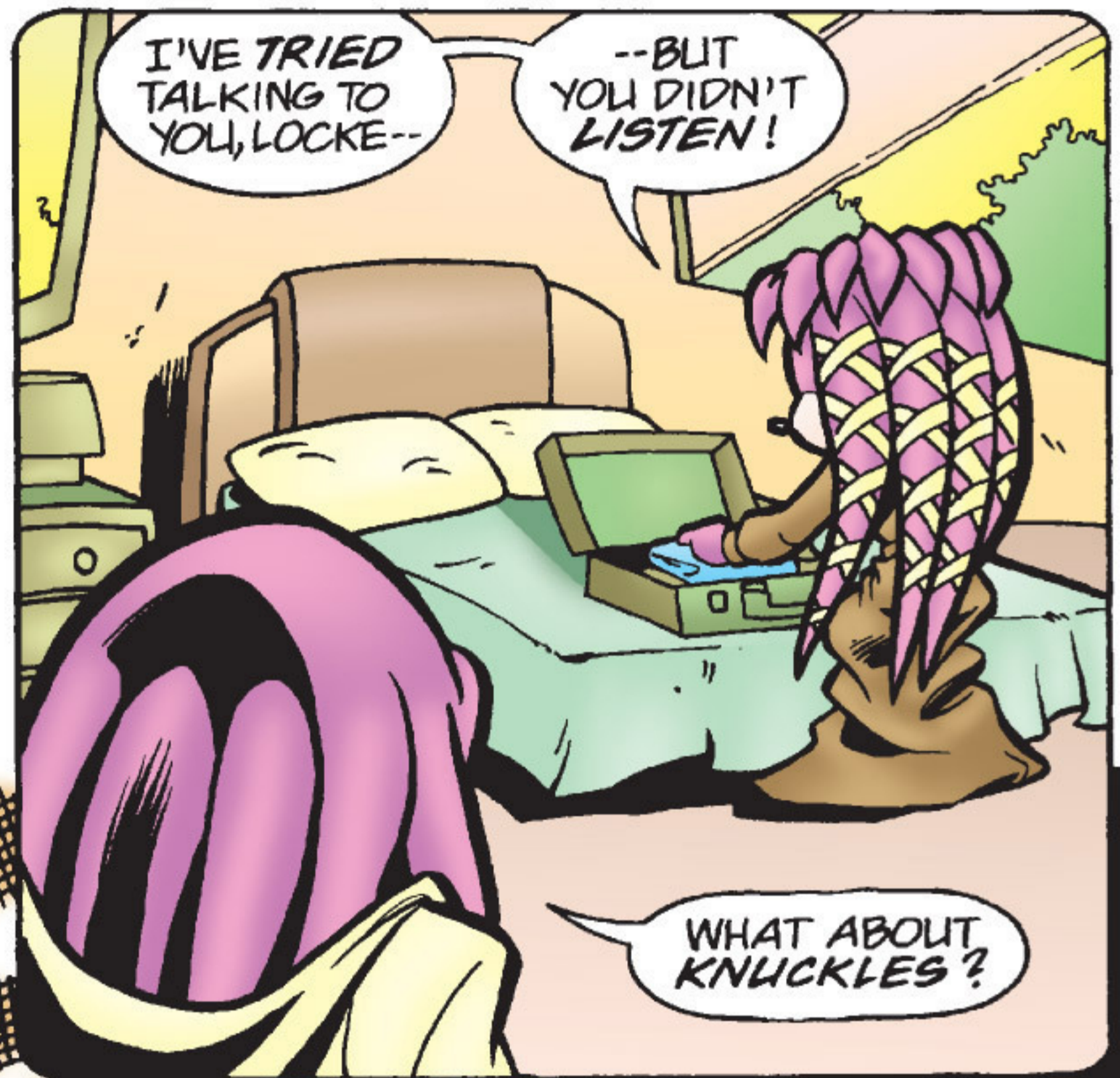
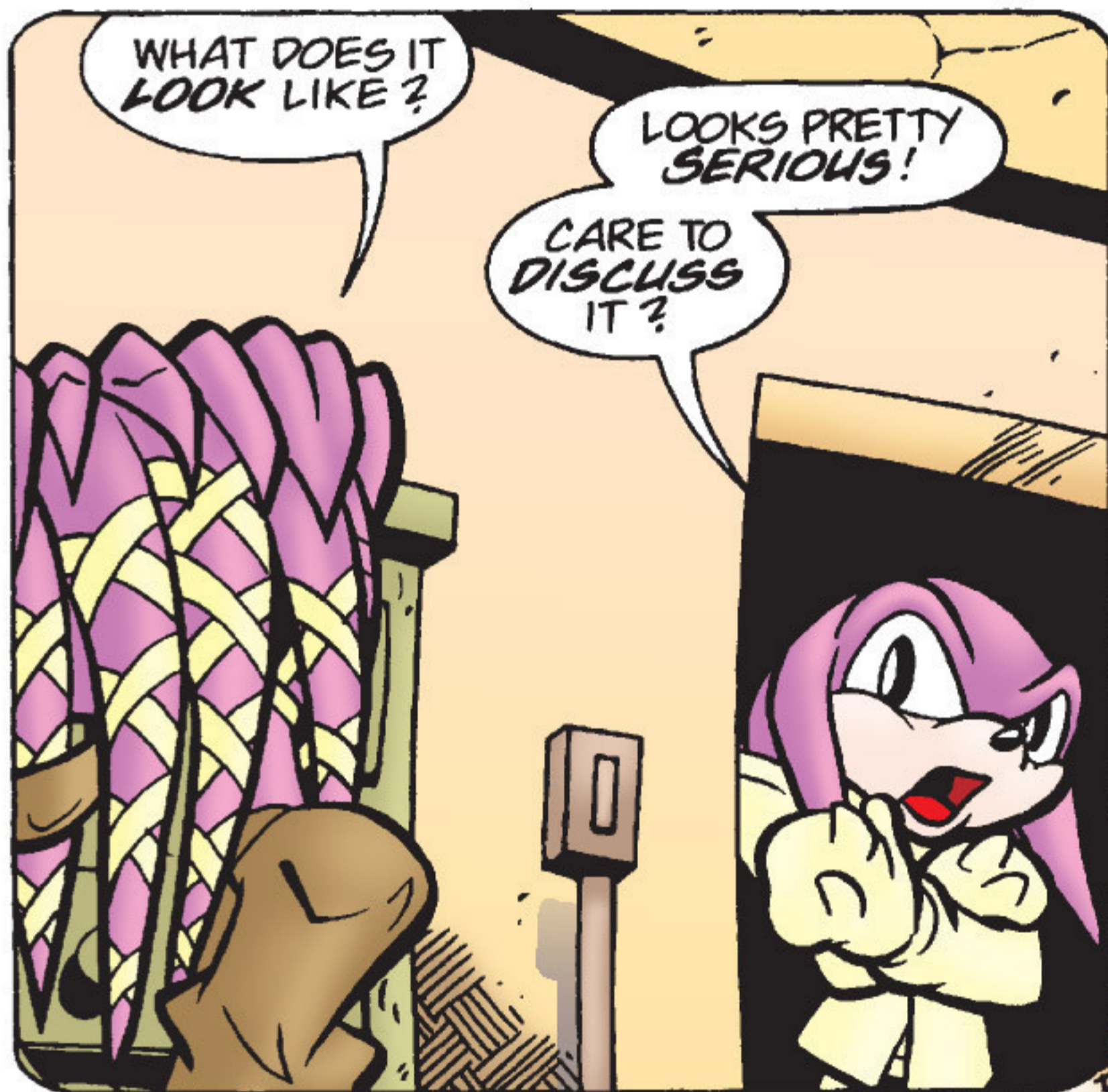
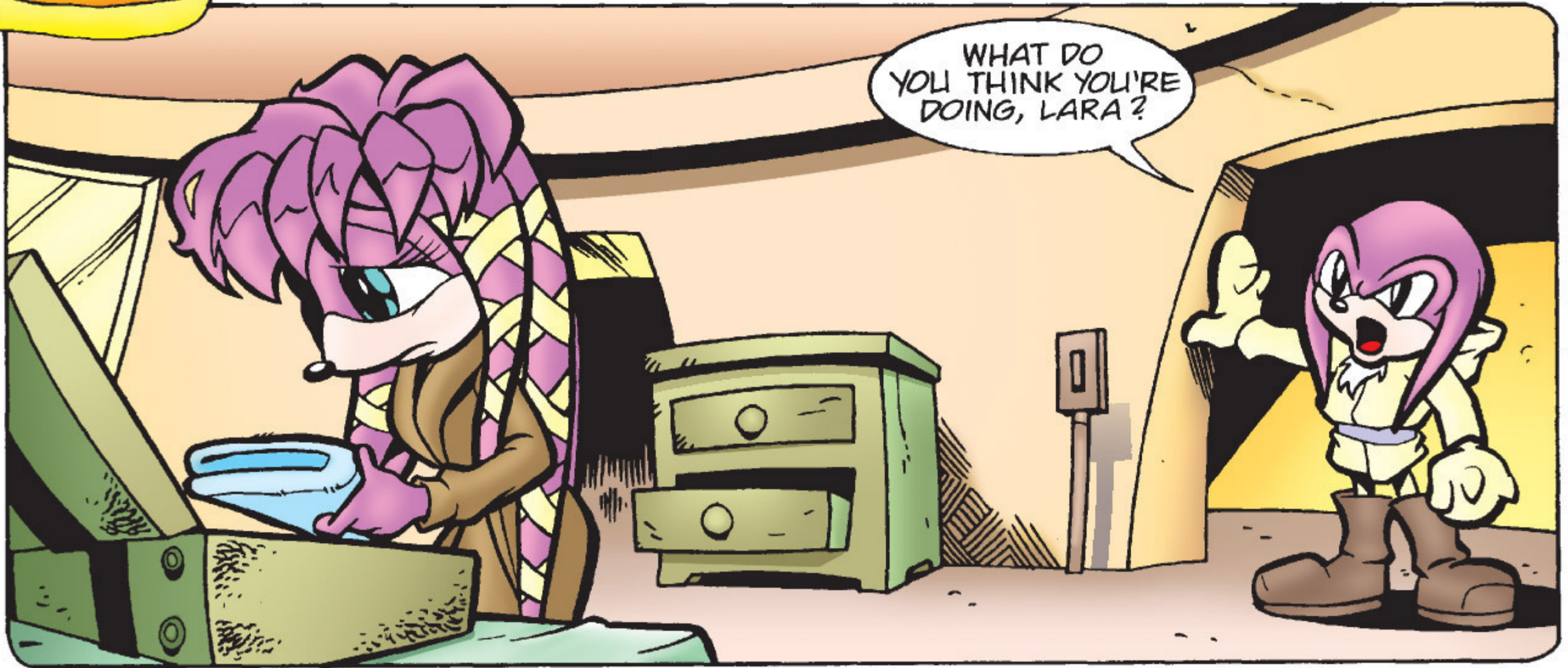
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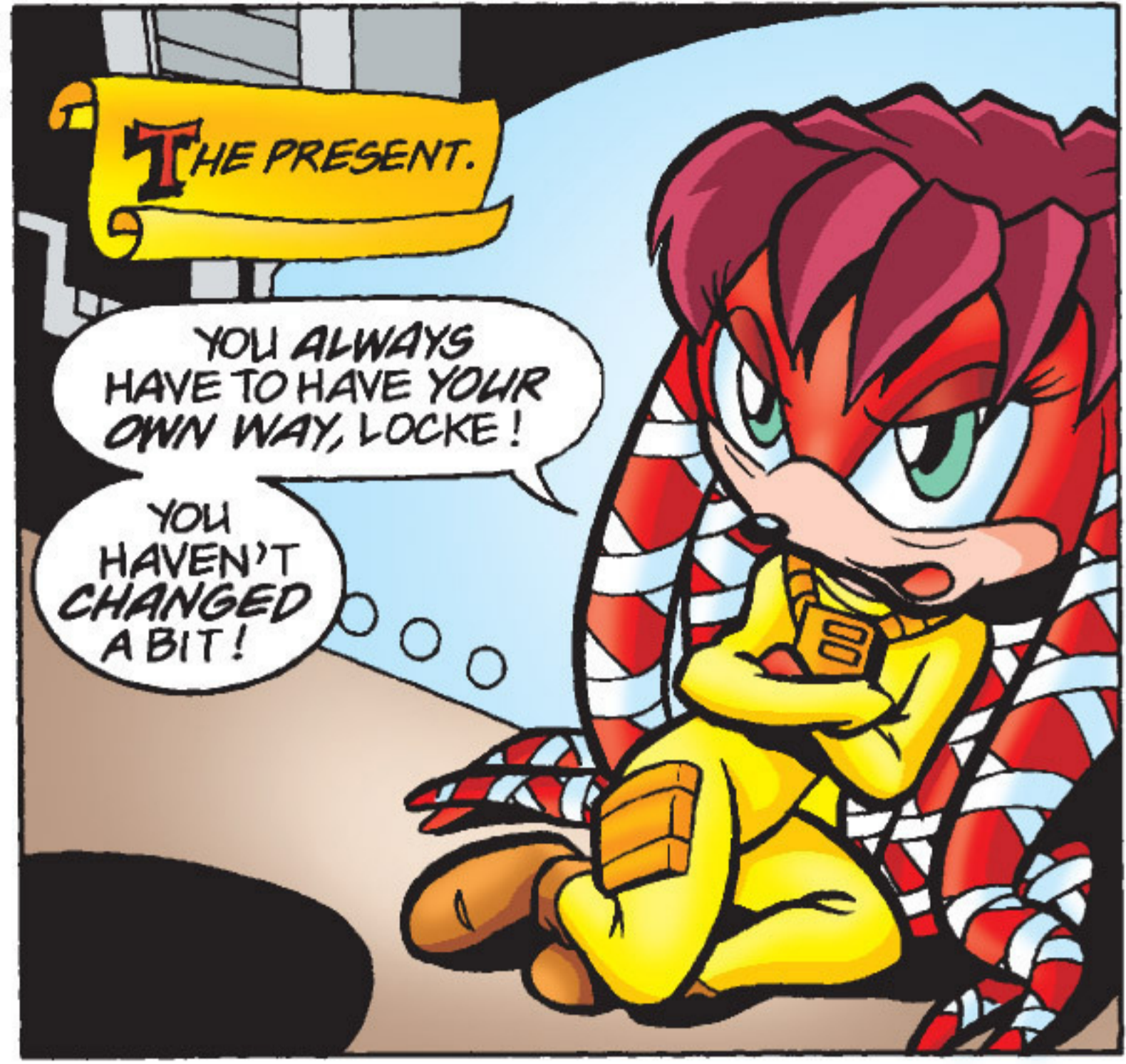
Born to the most noble of Echidna houses,
the latest to continue the family heritage
and responsibility as
GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,
defender of all the forces of evil from the world
beyond as well as those who would
threaten within, he is none other than...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



An uncommon force of nature has unleashed a **snowstorm** across the face of **The Floating Island**, wrecking havoc for all who dwell upon it. The **fury** that **nature** has created however, pales in significance to the events about to play out, with the participants on a collision course with **destiny**.

Somewhere in the snow-covered **Sandopolis Zone**, we find a downed shuttle containing **two of the key players...**





AS LOCKE AND LARA-LE DISCOVER
THEY HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT--

-- INSIDE ONE OF THE DWELLINGS THAT COMPRISE PART
OF THE ROYAL COMPOUND USED BY THE ROYAL HOUSE OF
ACORN, COMMANDER GEOFFREY ST. JOHN AND HIS ELITE
SQUAD HAVE BEEN MET BY THE ESTATE'S CARETAKERS, MRS.
SOMMERSBY, AND HER HUSBAND, A GRUFF BULLDOG KNOWN AS
THE COLONEL!

IT IS THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER
INDIVIDUAL INTO THE ROOM THAT NOW
DRAWS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION...

WHO ARE
YOU?

MY NAME IS
ELIAS!

I TAKE IT
EVERYTHING'S
ALL RIGHT,
NANA?

Once Upon A Time In MOBOTROPOLIS



OH, YES, DEAR!

I WAS JUST SHAKEN A BIT BY THE COMMANDER'S UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL!

ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF KING ACORN?

YOU KNOW MY FATHER?! HE'S ALIVE--?!

FATHER?!!



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT ANY SON!

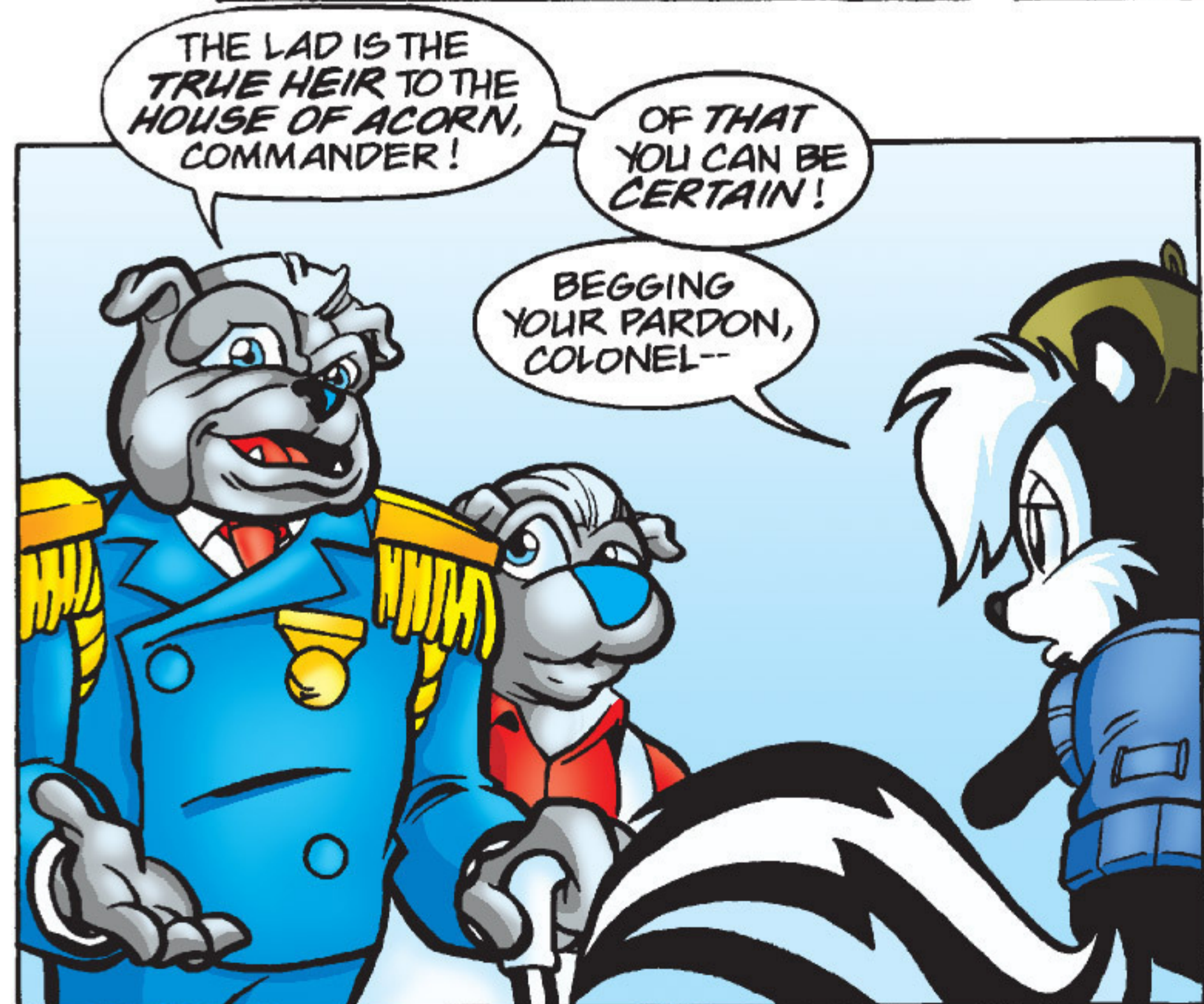
WE'RE HERE TO LEARN WHAT BECAME OF THE QUEEN--



--AND REPORT BACK, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

YOU'VE A LOT OF CONVINCING TO DO FOR ME TO BUY YOUR STORY, MATE!

I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH TO ACCEPT ANYTHING ON FAITH ALONE!



THE LAD IS THE TRUE HEIR TO THE HOUSE OF ACORN, COMMANDER!

OF THAT YOU CAN BE CERTAIN!

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, COLONEL--

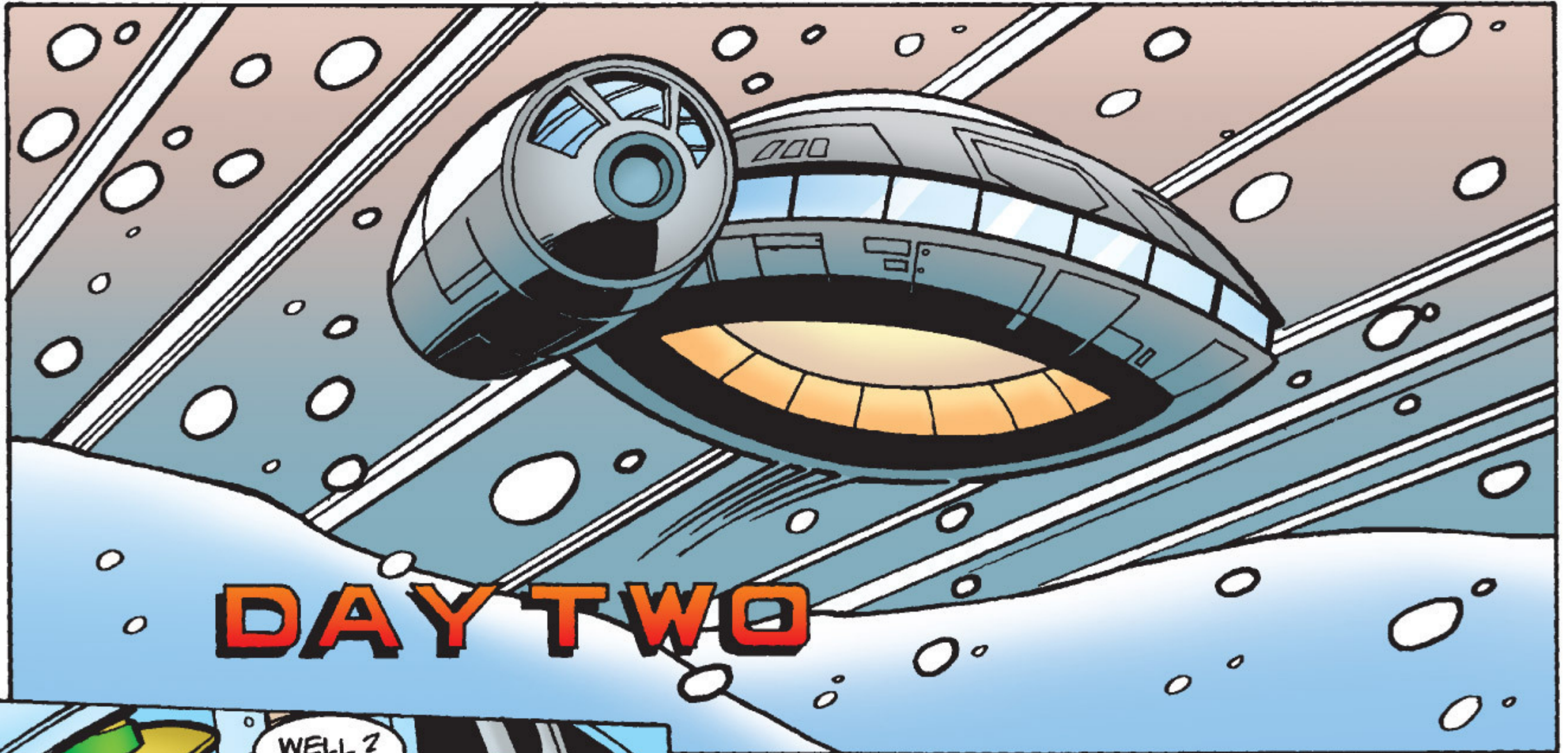


--BUT I NEED MORE THAN YOUR WORD OR HIS!

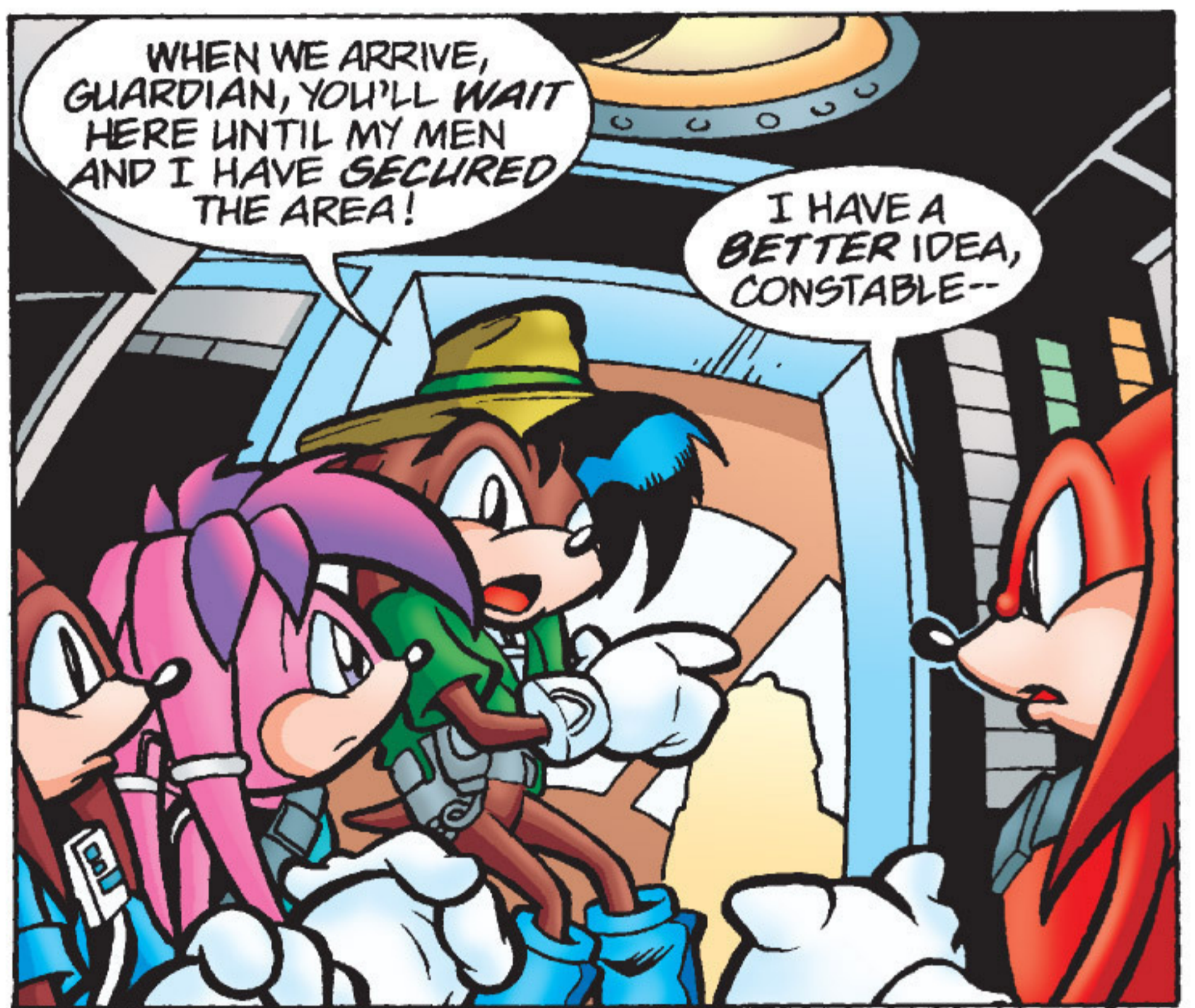
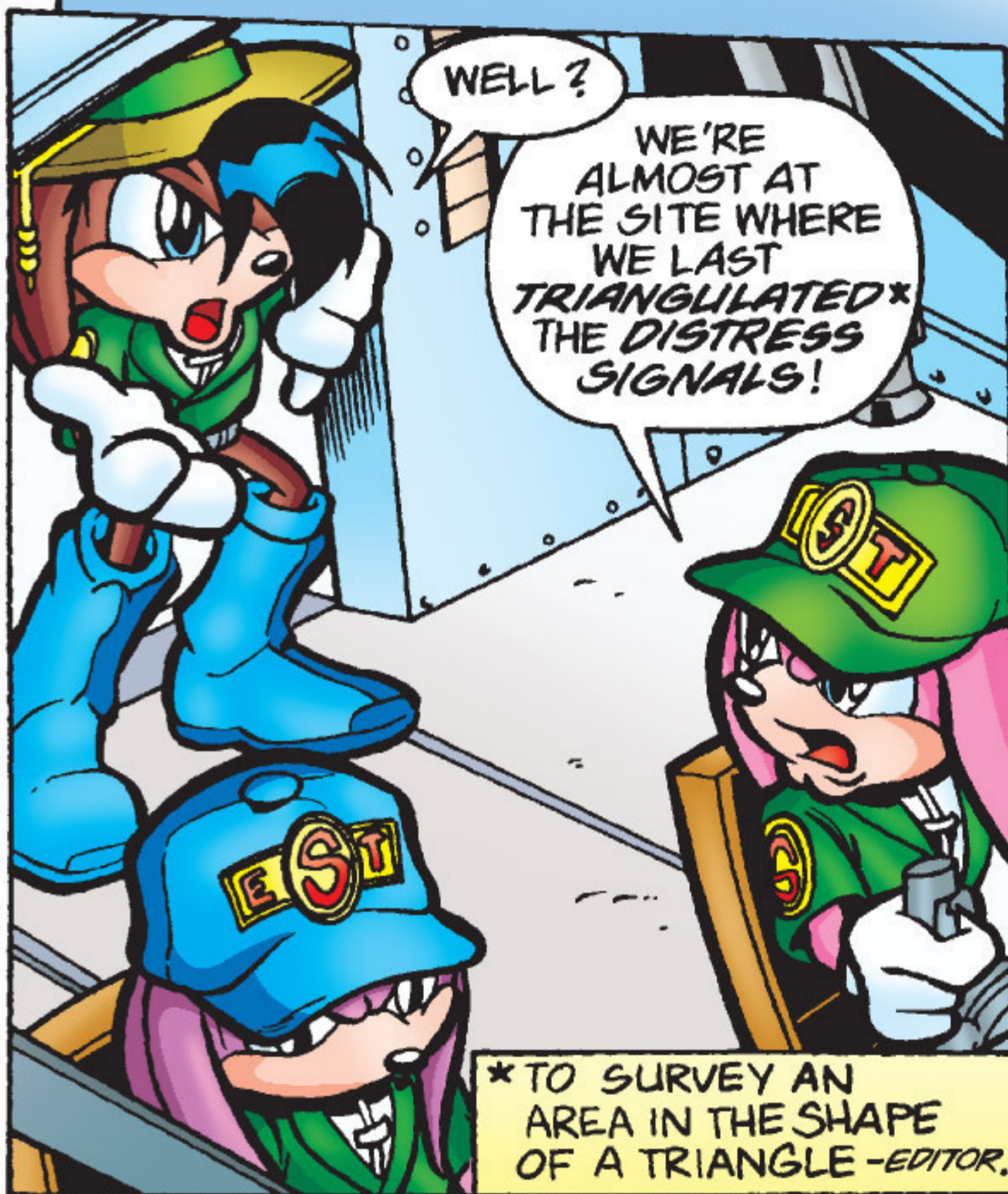
I NEED ABSOLUTE PROOF!

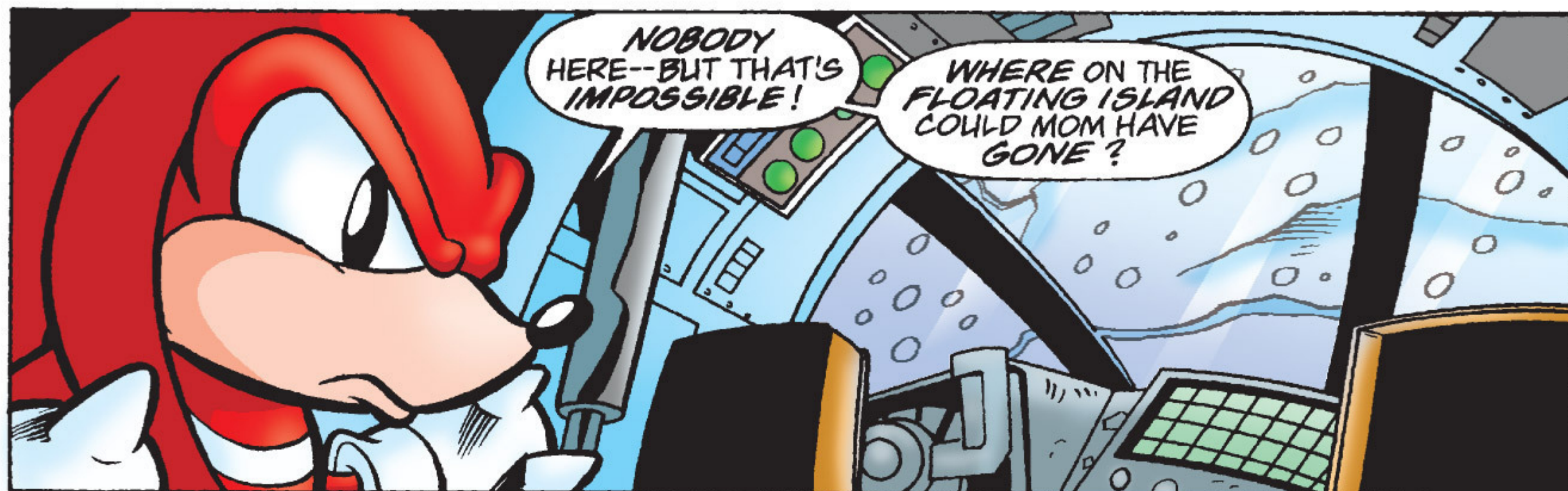
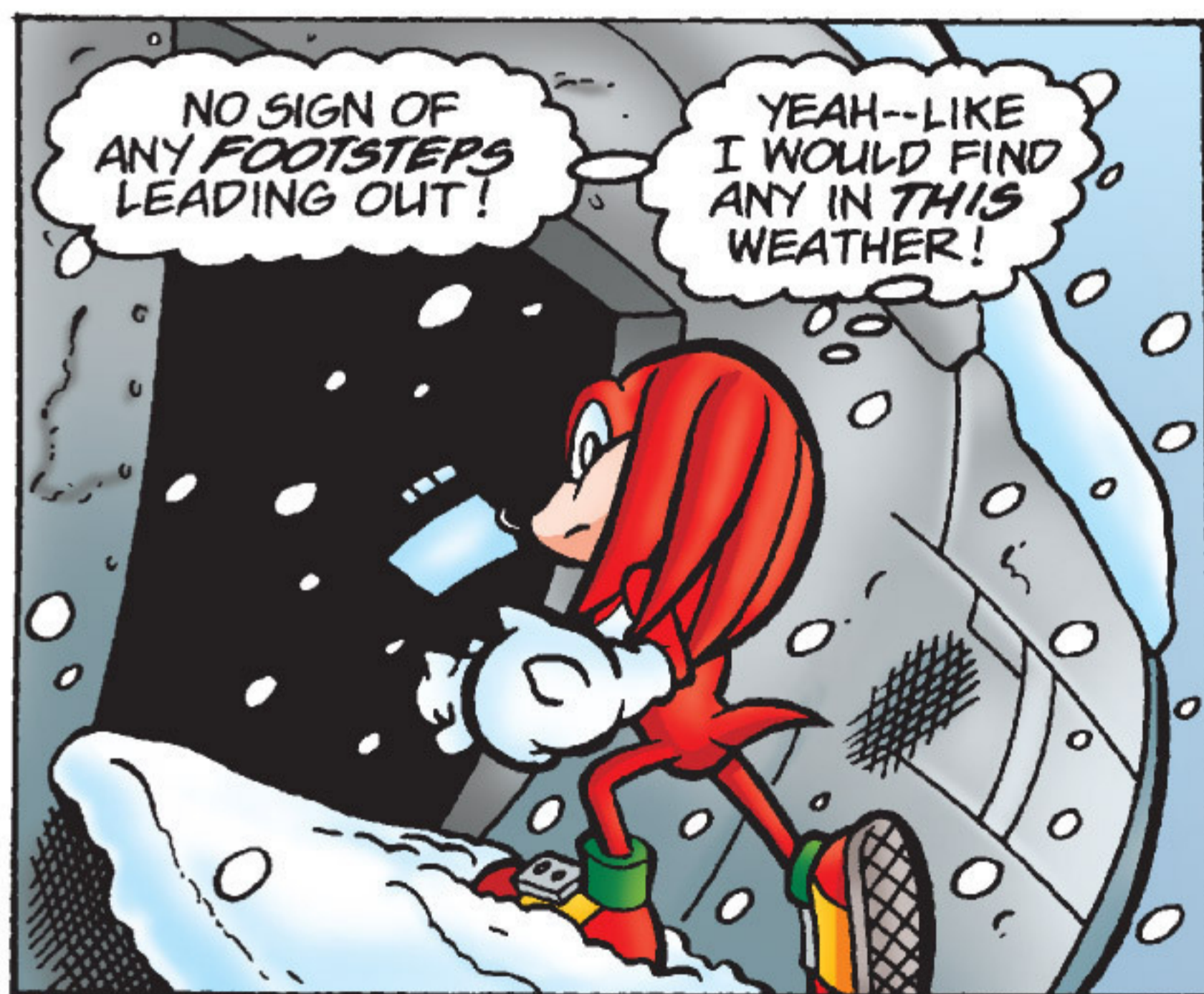
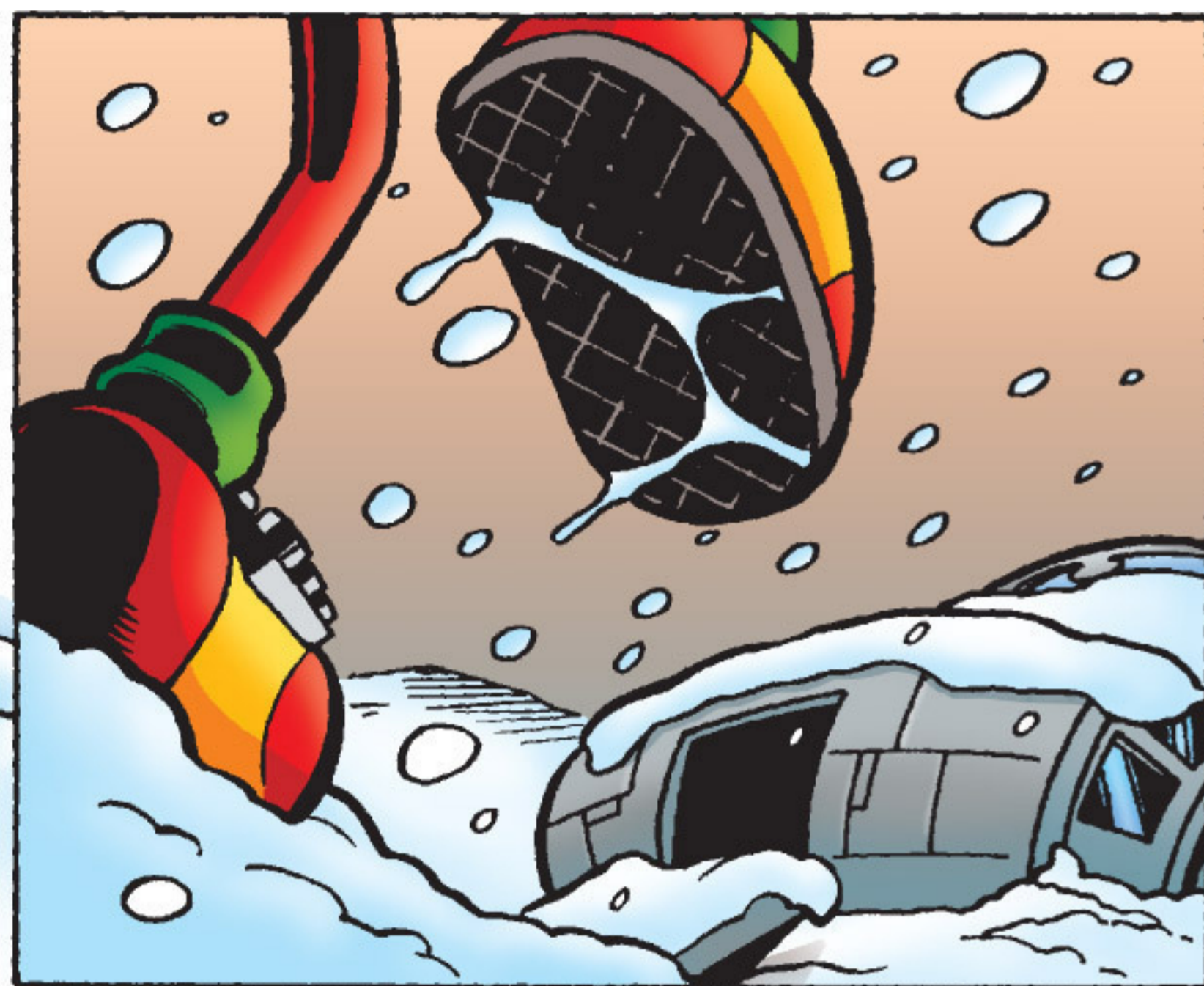
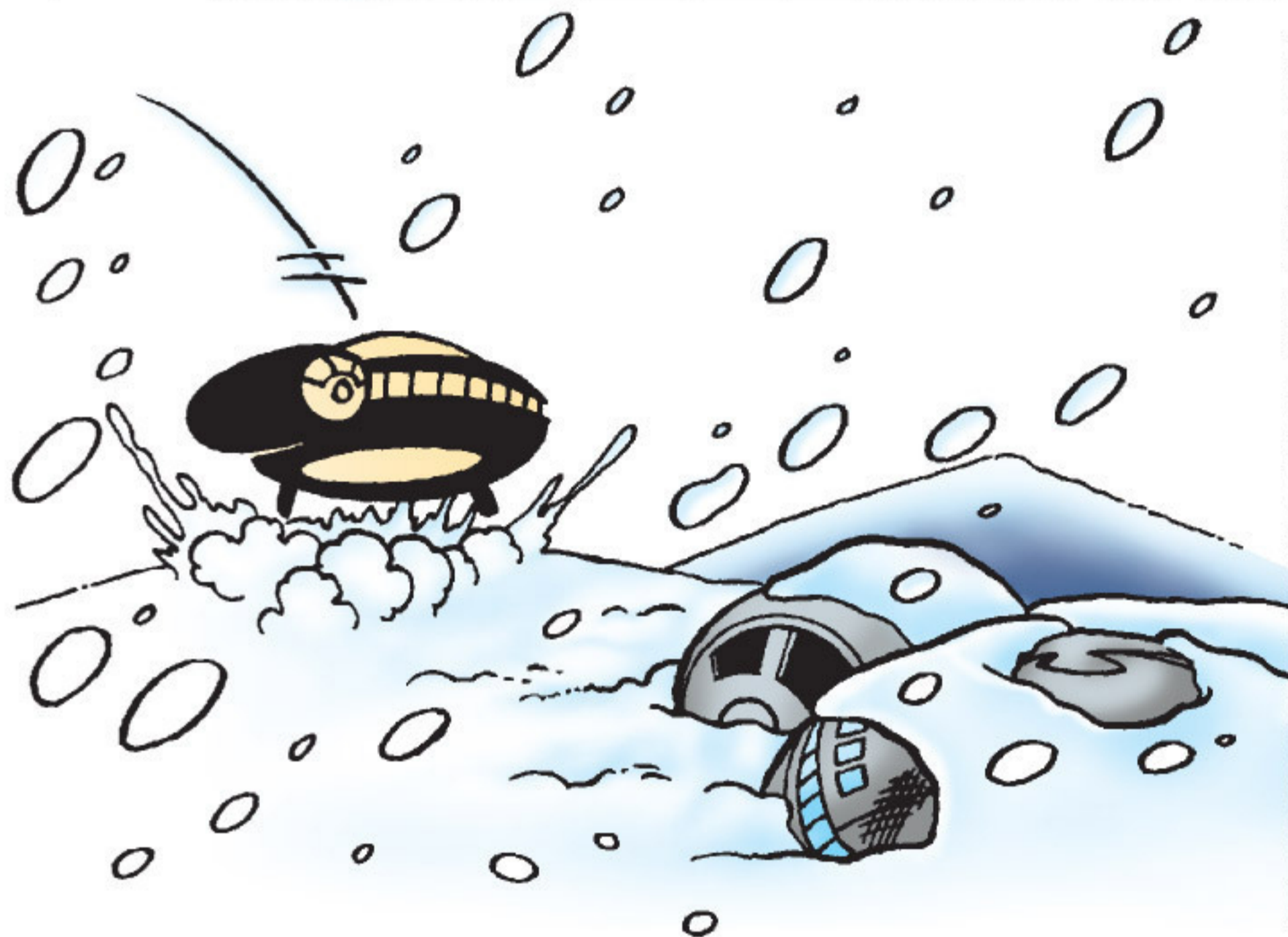
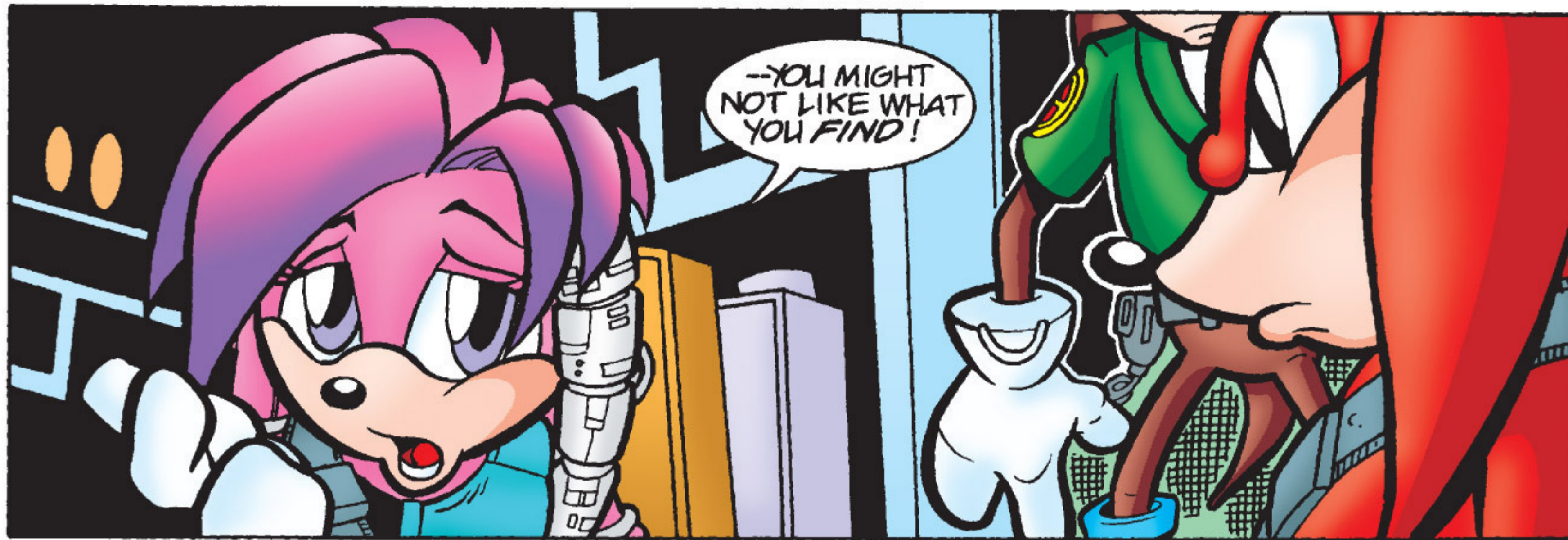
EVEN FACTORING IN ALL THE HARDSHIPS KING ACORN HAS ENDURED OVER THE YEARS--

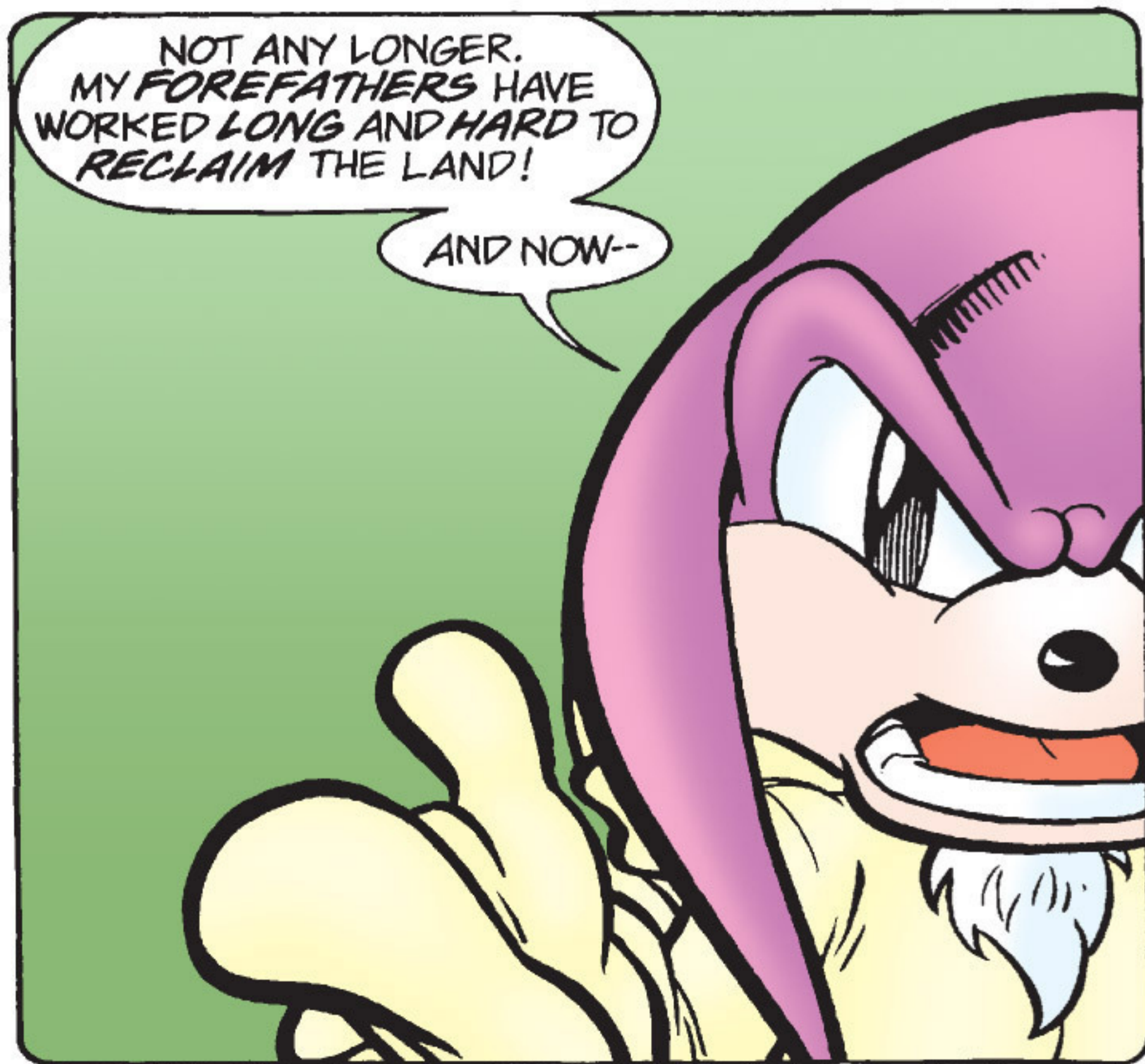
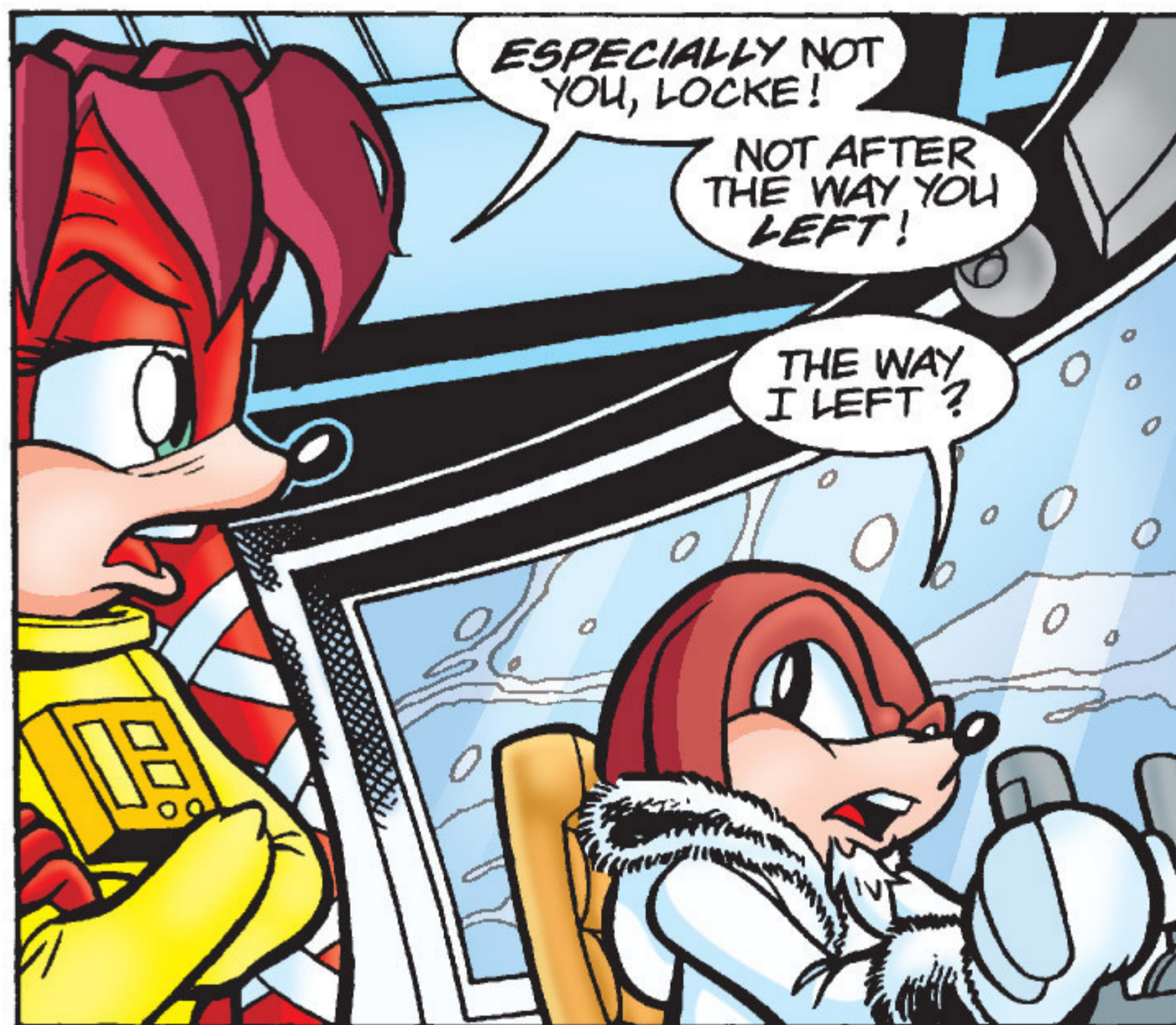
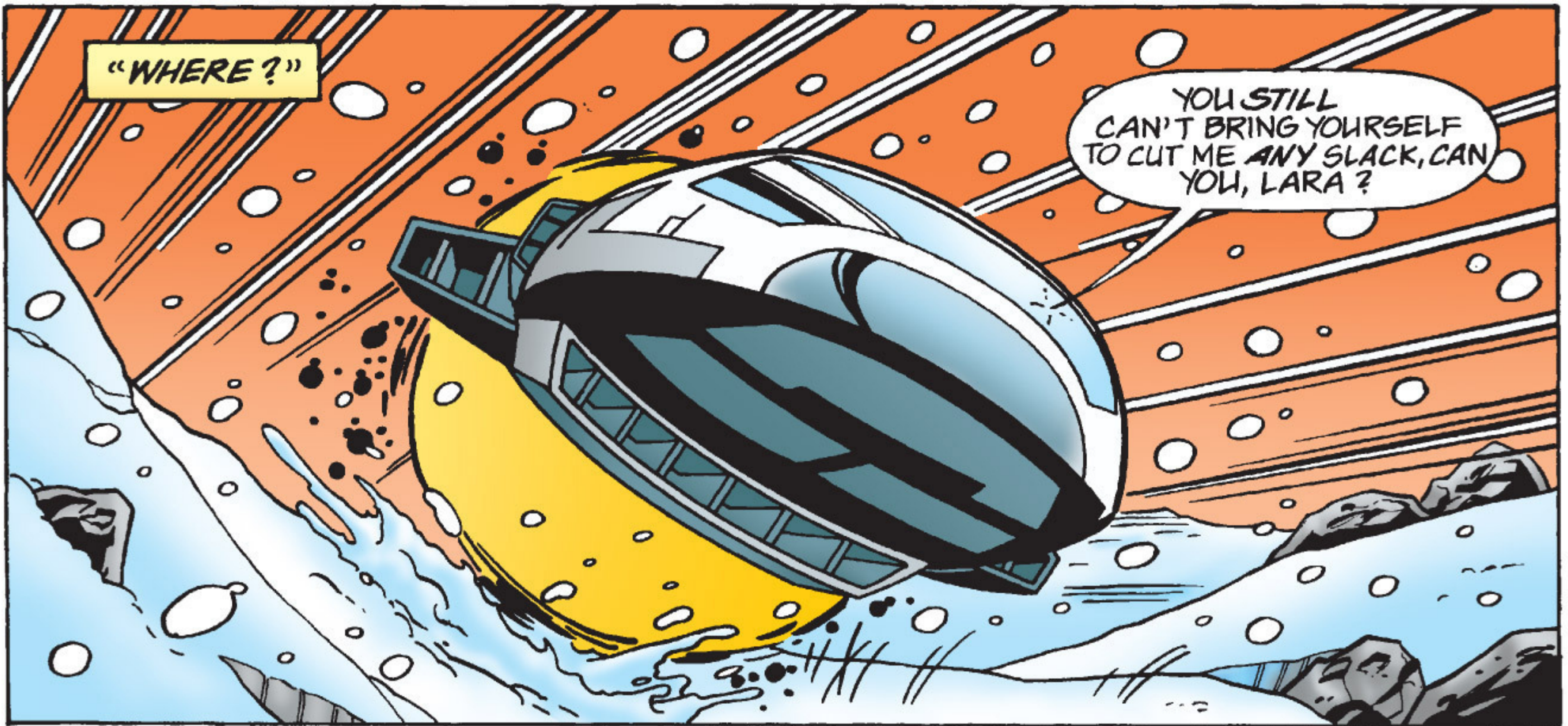


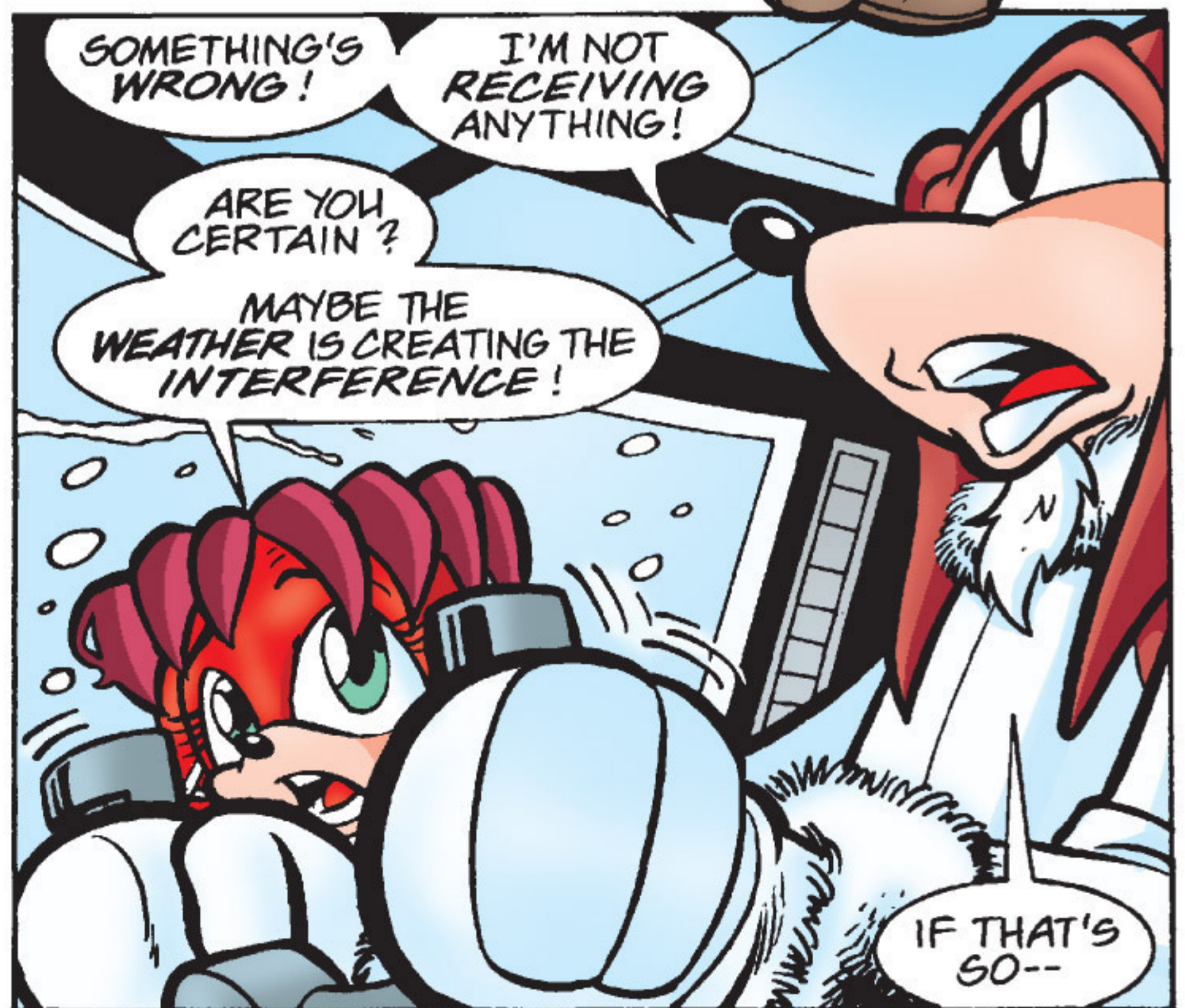
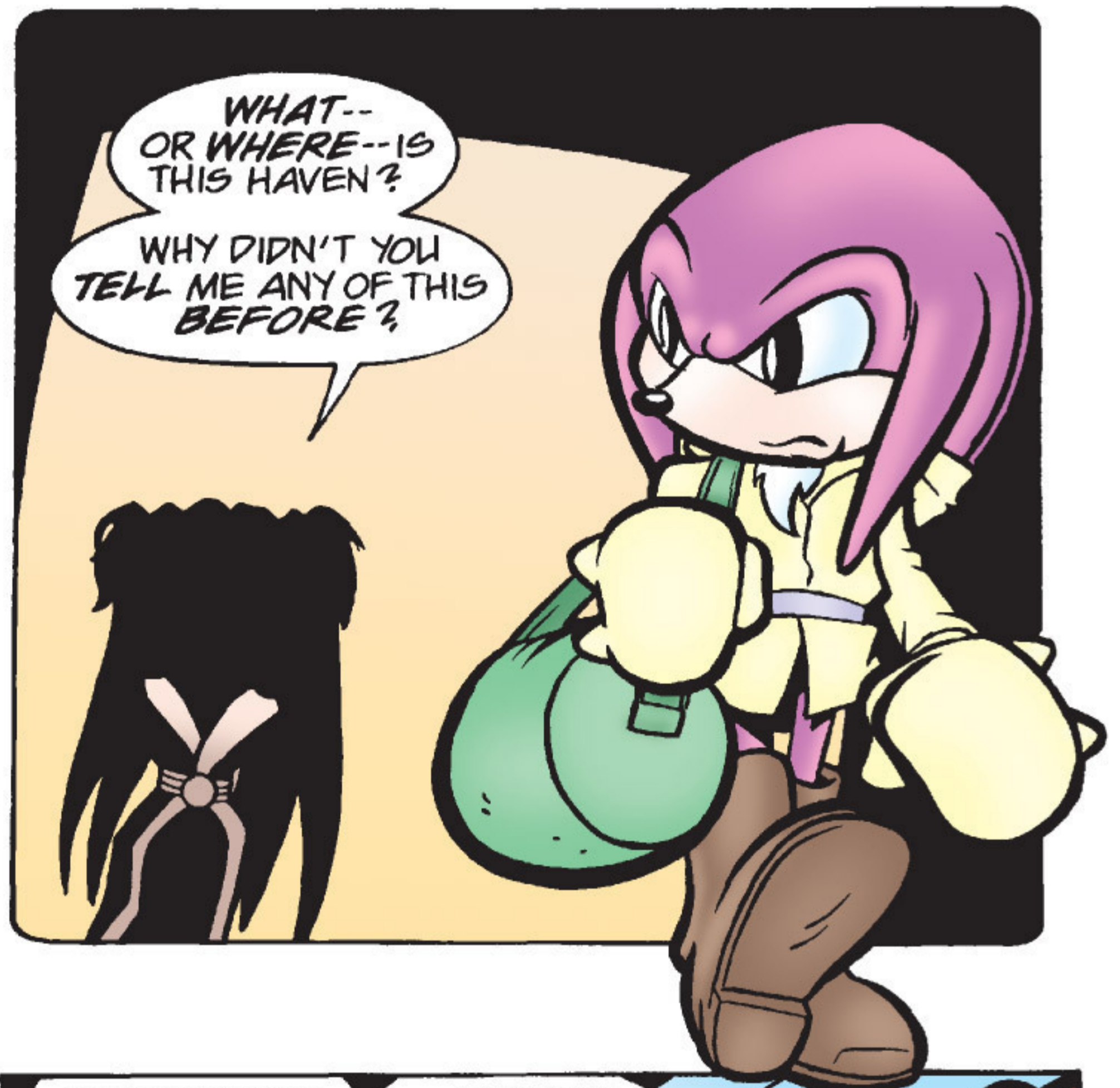
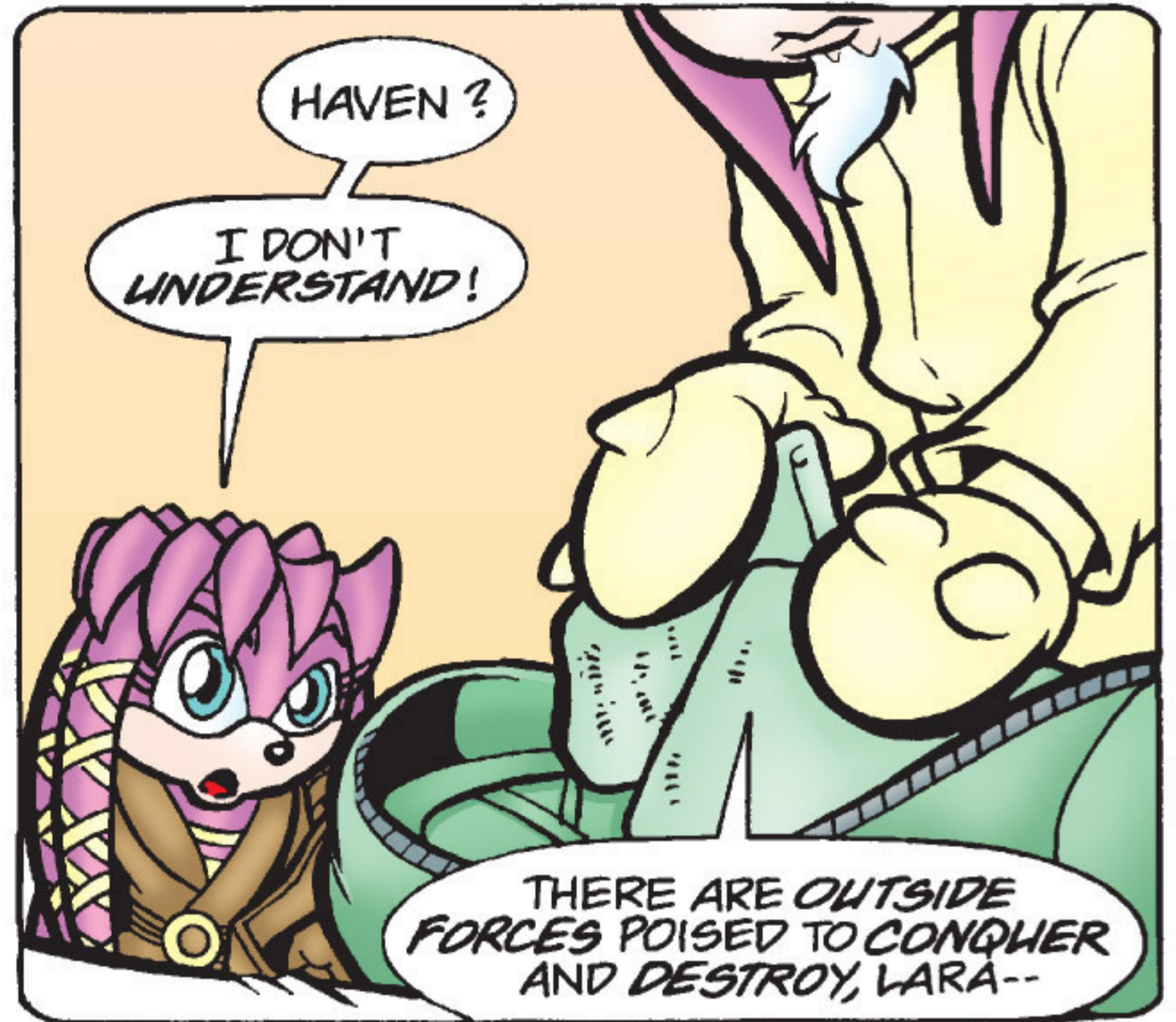
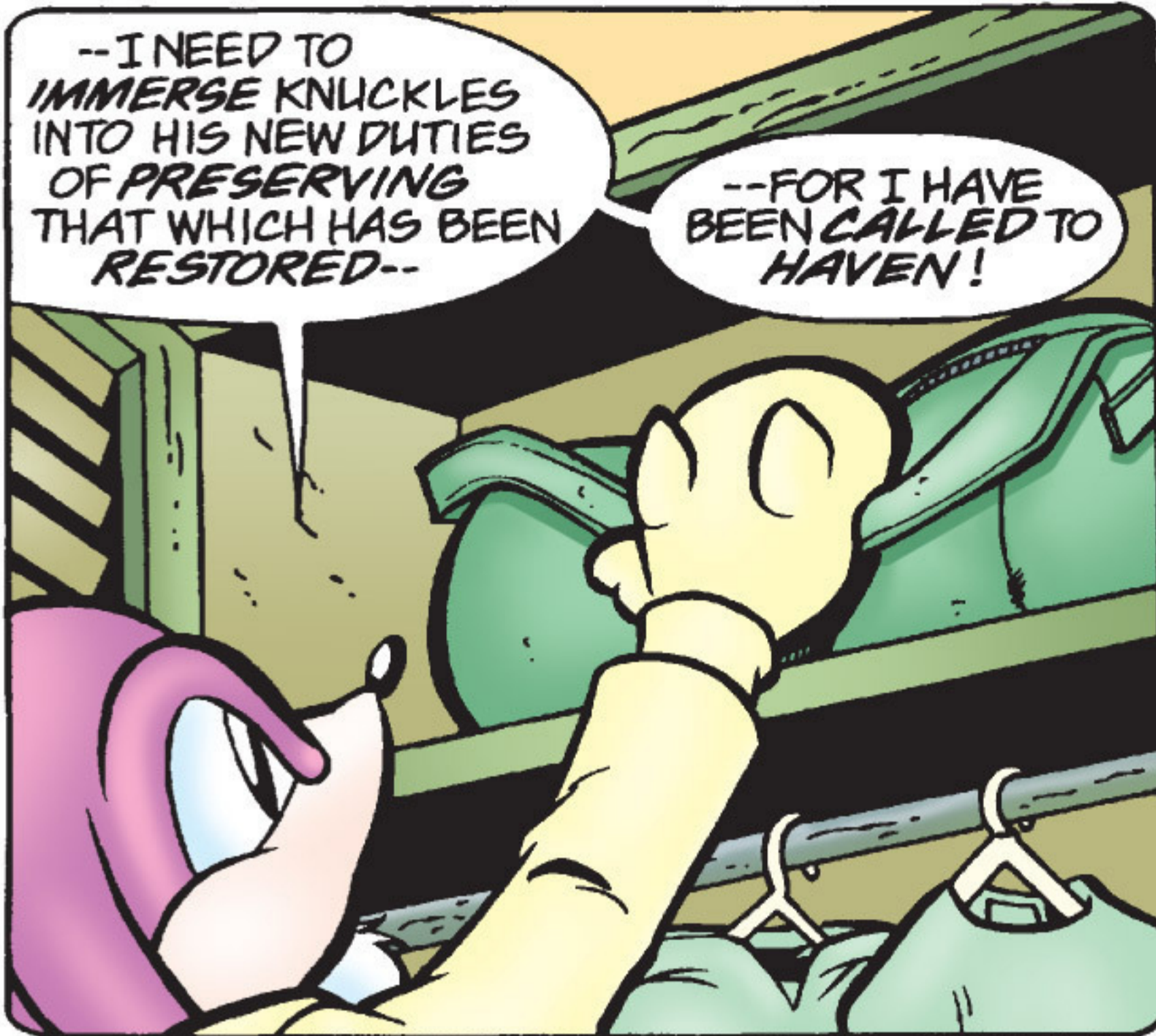


DAY TWO



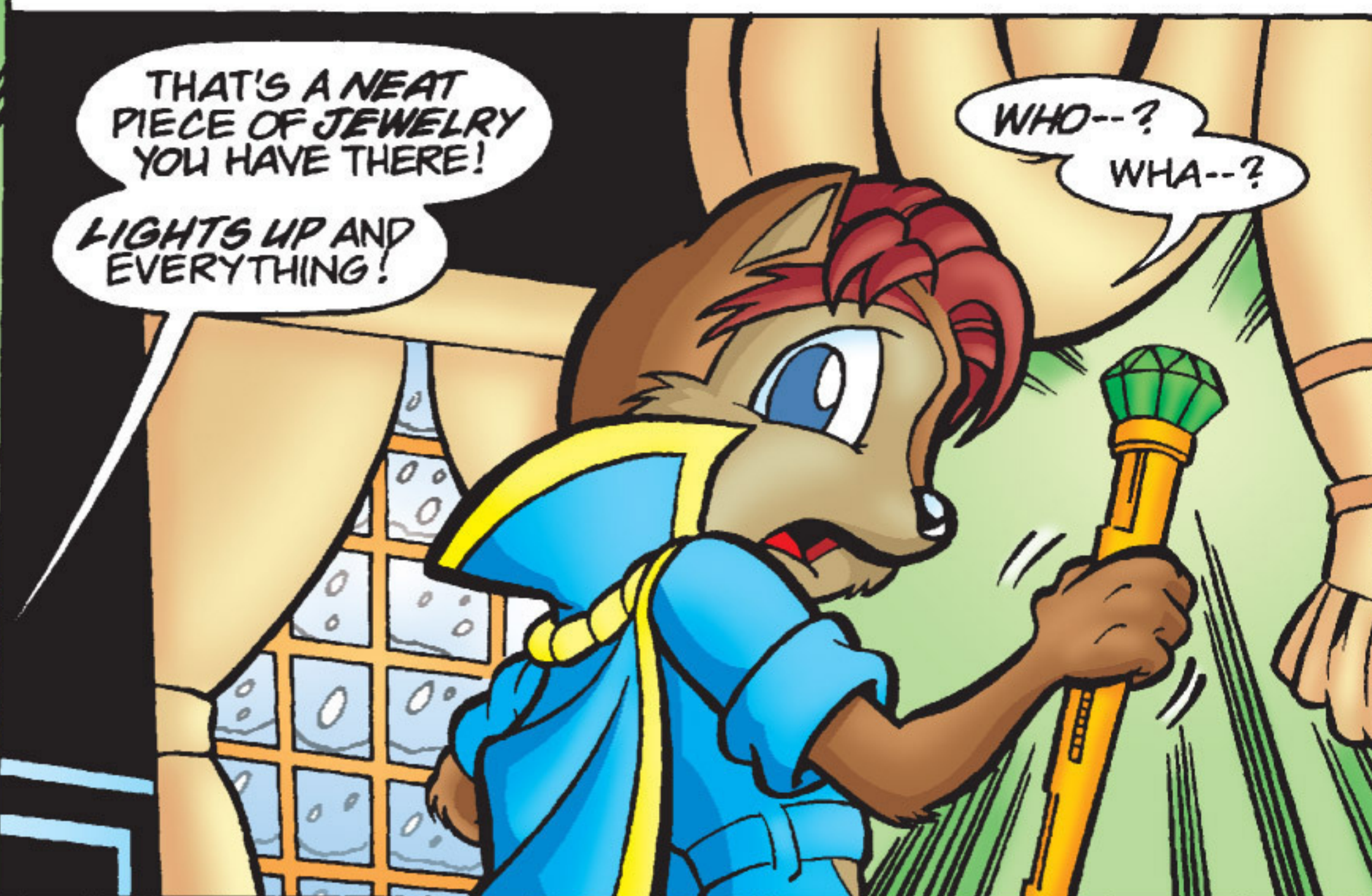








"-- IT'S LIKE NO STORM I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED!"



THAT'S A NEAT PIECE OF JEWELRY YOU HAVE THERE!
LIGHTS UP AND EVERYTHING!

WHO--?
WHA--?



OH, COMMANDER-- YOU STARTLED ME!

GUILTY CONSCIENCE--

--OR THE NERVOUS TYPE?

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING?



THIS?

IT'S A HOMING ROD!

FATHER GAVE IT TO MOTHER BEFORE HE SENT HER AWAY--

--JUST IN CASE!

JUST IN CASE OF WHAT?



IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED, MOTHER WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL FOR HELP!

MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK?



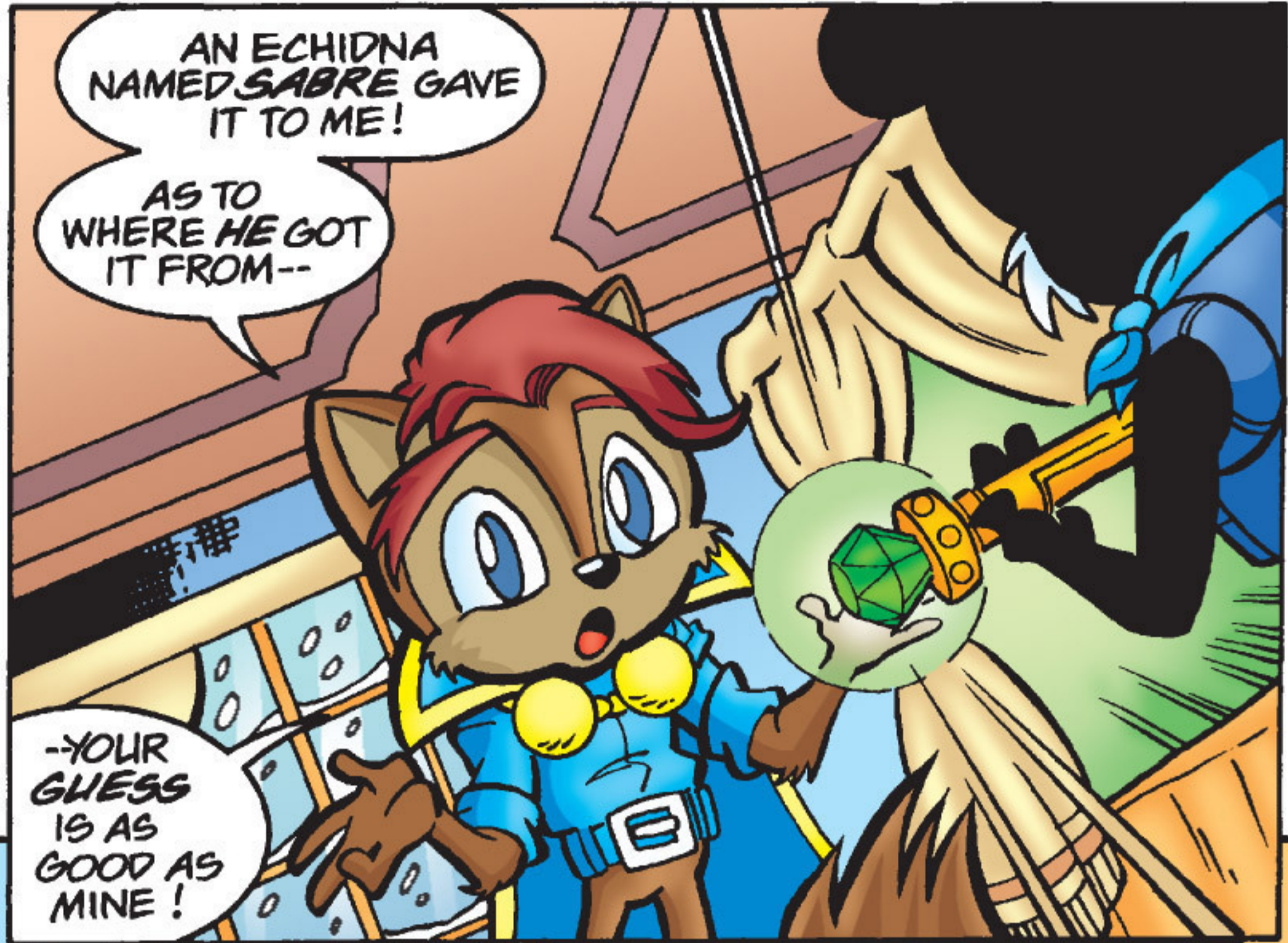
YOU DON'T TRUST ME, COMMANDER, DO YOU?

I'D PROBABLY BE LYING IF I SAID I DID.

HOWEVER--



--I'VE SEEN ENOUGH ROYAL OBJECTS TO KNOW THIS IS THE REAL DEAL!
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?



AN ECHIDNA NAMED SABRE GAVE IT TO ME!
AS TO WHERE HE GOT IT FROM--

--YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE!



SAY! THAT SMELLS LIKE MRS. SOMMERSBY'S ARGYLEAN TEA! I'LL BET THE COLONEL IS UP AS WELL!

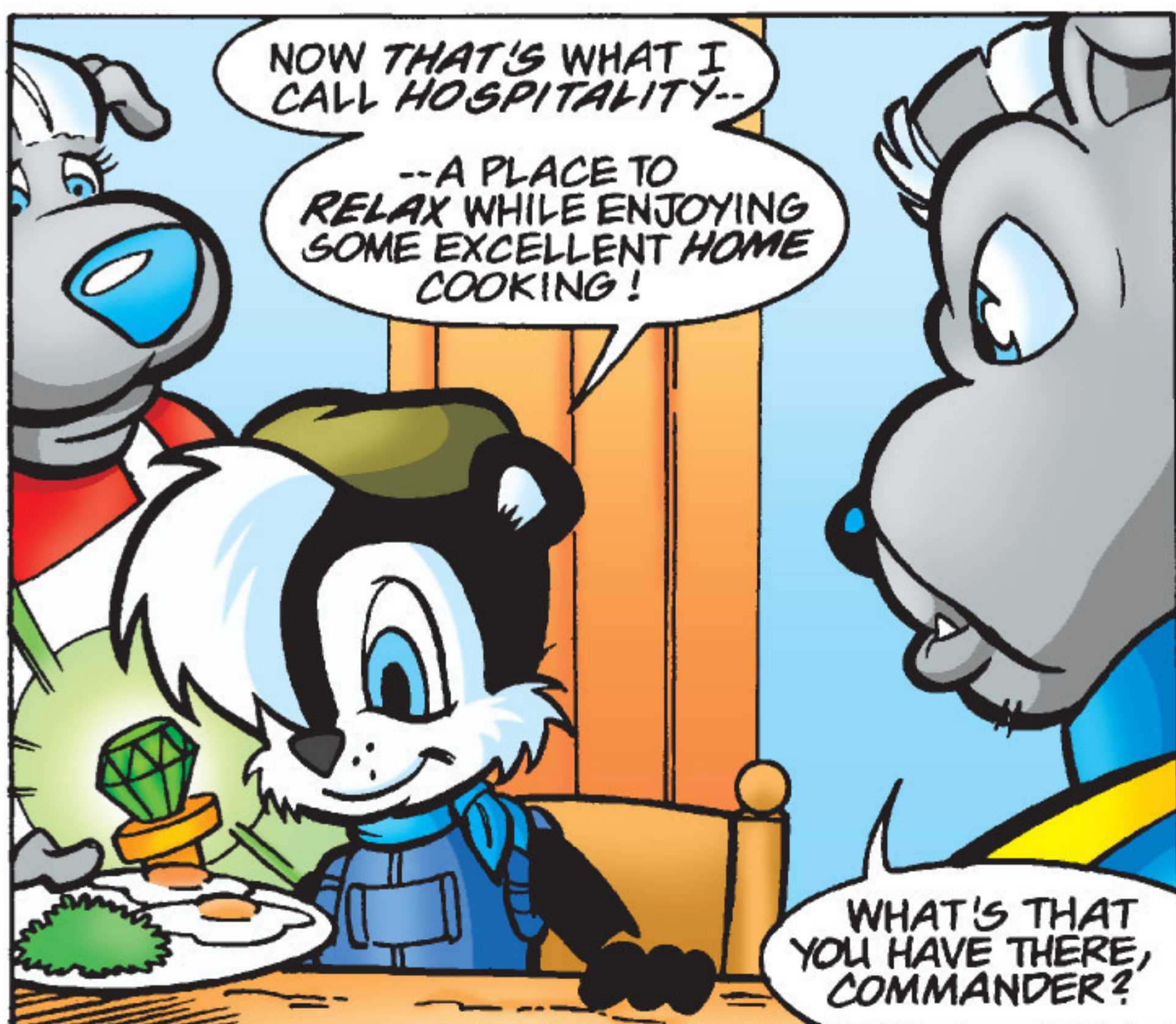
AND I'D WAGER HE'D HAVE AN EDUCATED GUESS OR TWO!



I TOLD YOU I THOUGHT I HEARD VOICES, FATHER!

COME ON IN, BOYS--

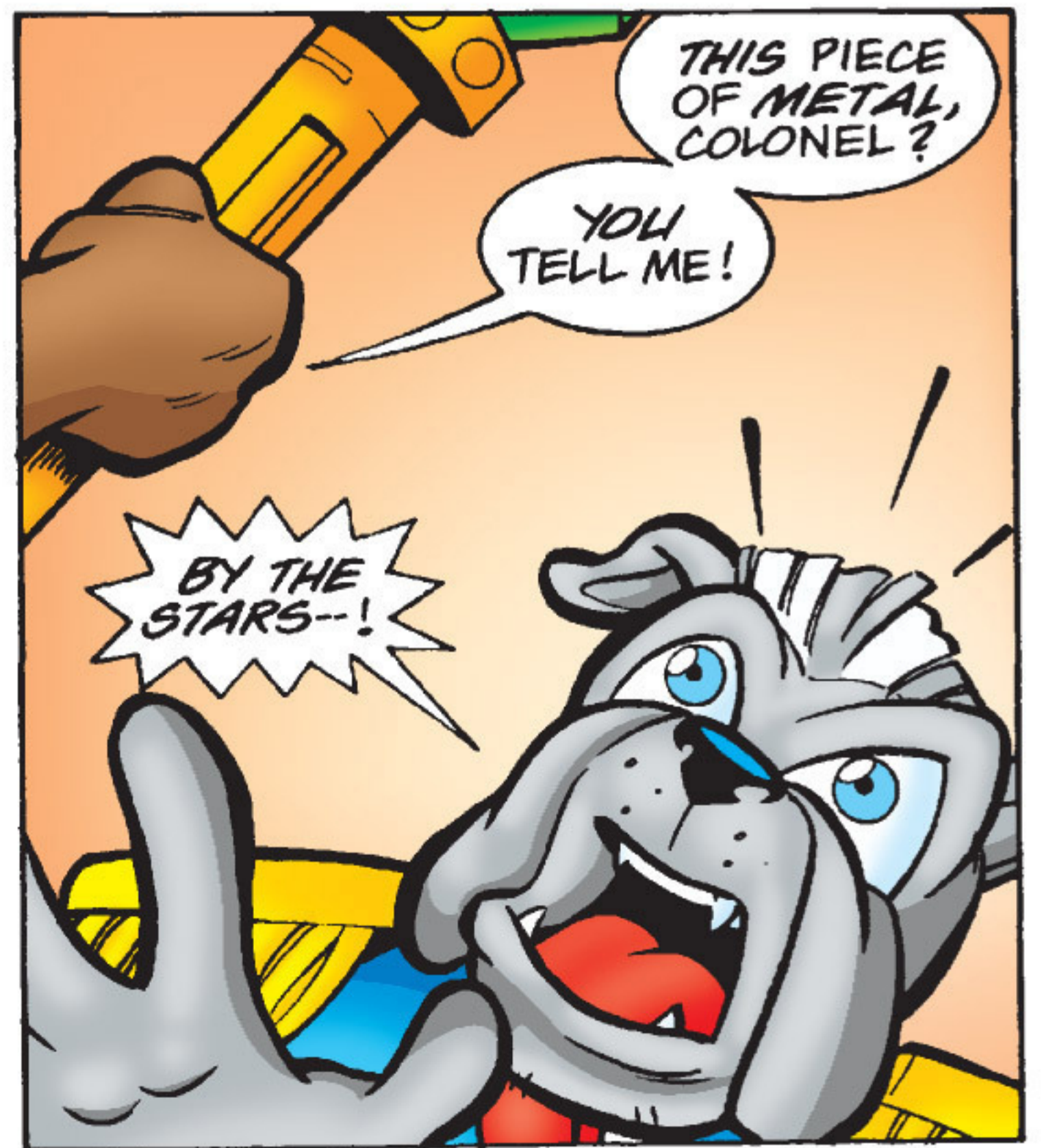
--AND PULL UP A SEAT!



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL HOSPITALITY--

--A PLACE TO RELAX WHILE ENJOYING SOME EXCELLENT HOME COOKING!

WHAT'S THAT YOU HAVE THERE, COMMANDER?



THIS PIECE OF METAL, COLONEL?

YOU TELL ME!

BY THE STARS--!



YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, COLONEL!

KING ACORN'S MEMORY MAY BE A BIT SPOTTY THESE DAYS--

--BUT YOU WERE AMONG THE QUEEN'S GUARDSMEN ON THAT LOST MISSION!

YES!

I THOUGHT I COULD FINALLY BURY THE PAST--

--UNTIL YOU CAME!



AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GHOST--

--UNTIL I REMEMBERED SEEING YOUR FATHER SAYING GOODBYE TO YOU AS WE READIED THE ESCAPE CRAFT FOR QUEEN ALICIA!

"I WAS YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT-HAND MAN BACK THEN, SO IT WAS ONLY NATURAL HE TURNED TO ME WITH A SPECIAL MATTER NEEDING TENDING TO..."

COLONEL, WE NEED A POD PREPARED TO TRANSPORT PRINCE ELIAS WITH US!

WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCESS, COMMANDER?

SHE'S WITH ROSIE AT KNOTHOLE!



EVEN THOUGH THE EXISTENCE OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS IS A CLASSIFIED WARTIME STATE SECRET, THIS CRAFT IS ALREADY A BIG ENOUGH TARGET WITH THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ABOARD!

SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN--

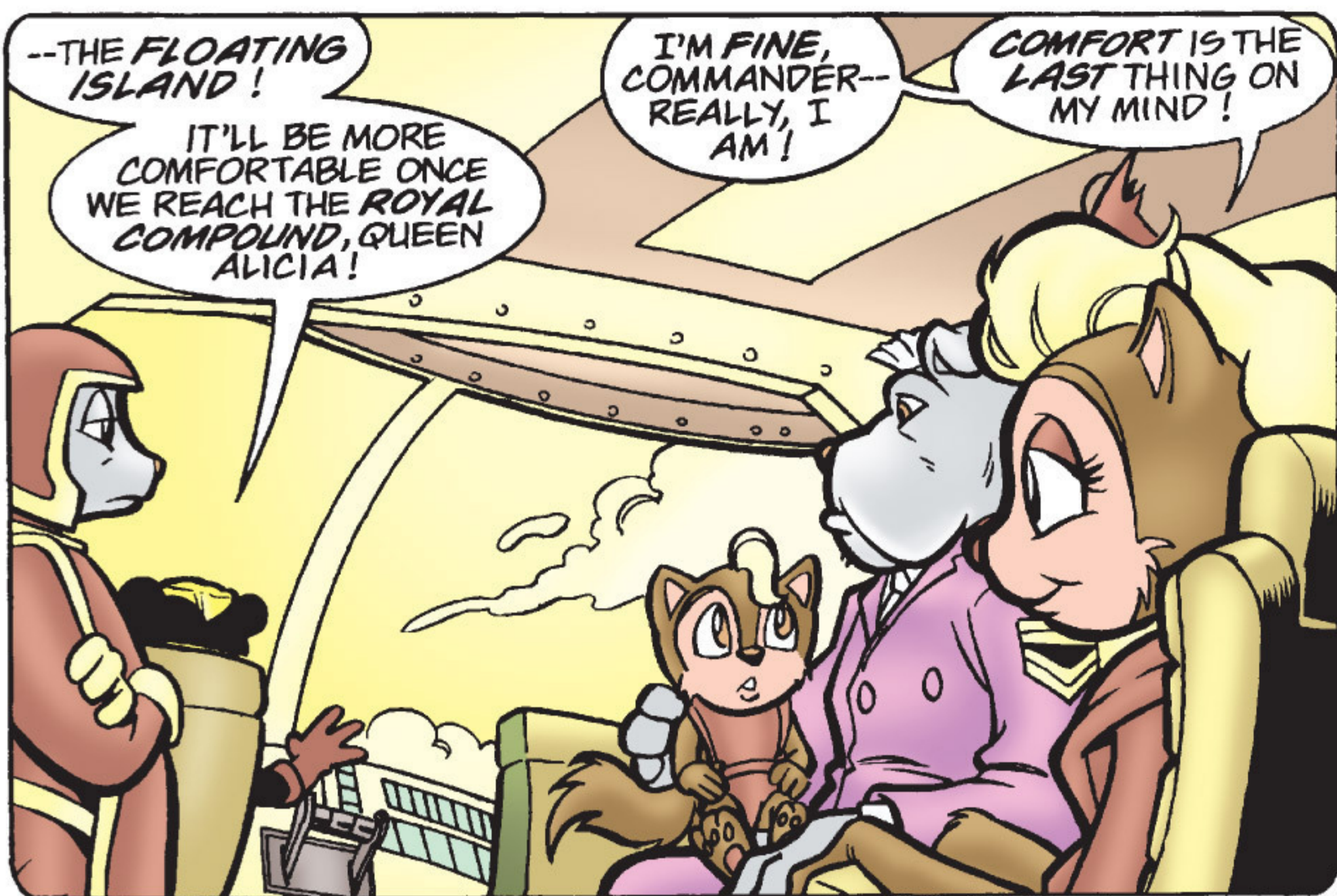
--I DON'T WANT THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF ACORN LAID AT MY TOMBSTONE!



"DESPITE THE DESPERATE SITUATION, WE MANAGED TO BE AIRBORNE LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES AFTER KING ACORN GAVE THE ORDER...." *

HOLD ON TIGHT, EVERYONE! NEXT STOP--

*TO SEE THE ORDER GIVEN, CHECK OUT SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 17 "THE MISSION" -- ED.



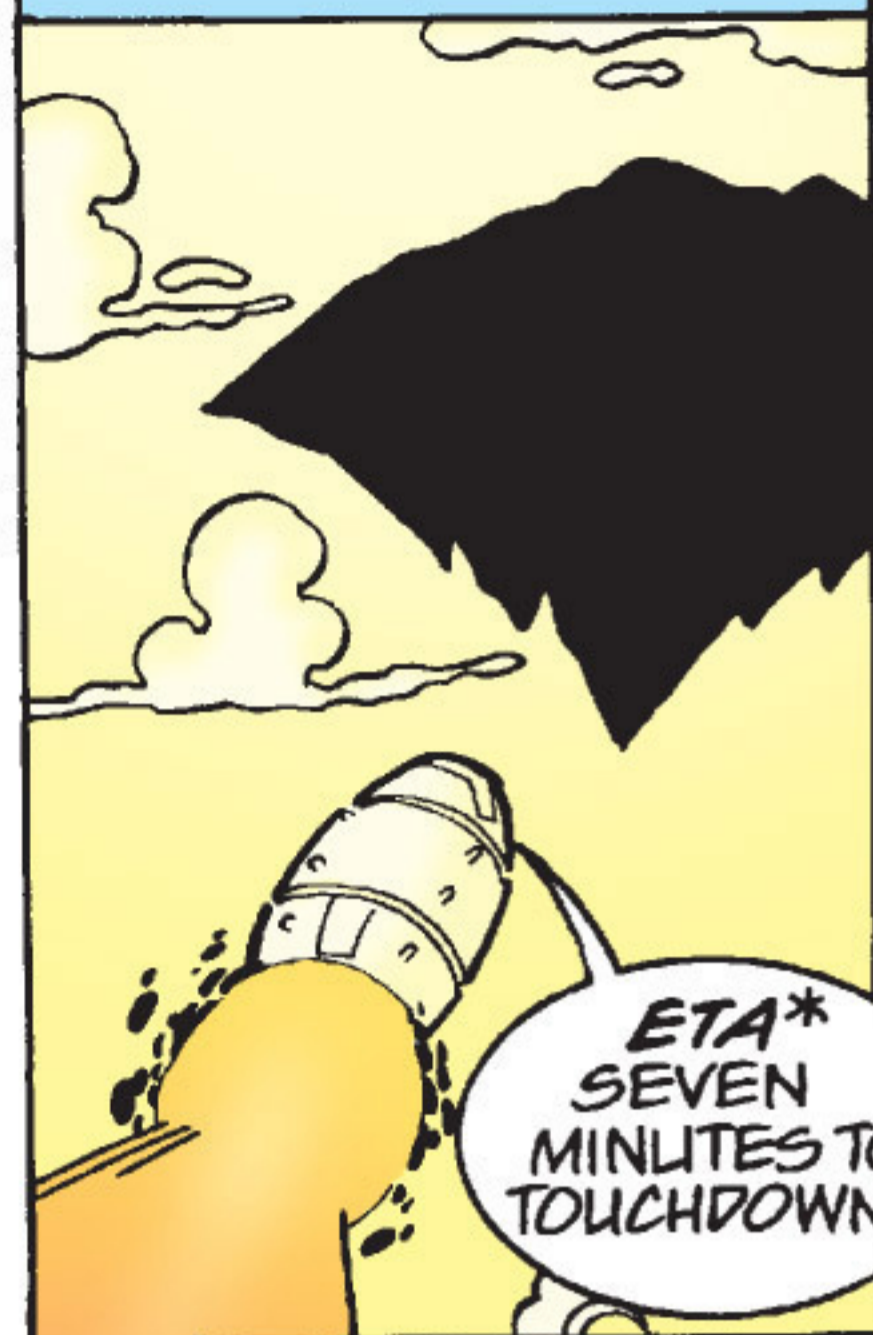
--THE FLOATING ISLAND!

IT'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE ONCE WE REACH THE ROYAL COMPOUND, QUEEN ALICIA!

I'M FINE, COMMANDER-- REALLY, I AM!

COMFORT IS THE LAST THING ON MY MIND!

"WE HAVE JUST ABOUT MADE IT TO OUR DESTINATION WITHOUT INCIDENT, WHEN..."



ETA* SEVEN MINUTES TO TOUCHDOWN!

* ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL-- --EDITOR



WHAT THE-- ?!!

WE'RE HIT!!!

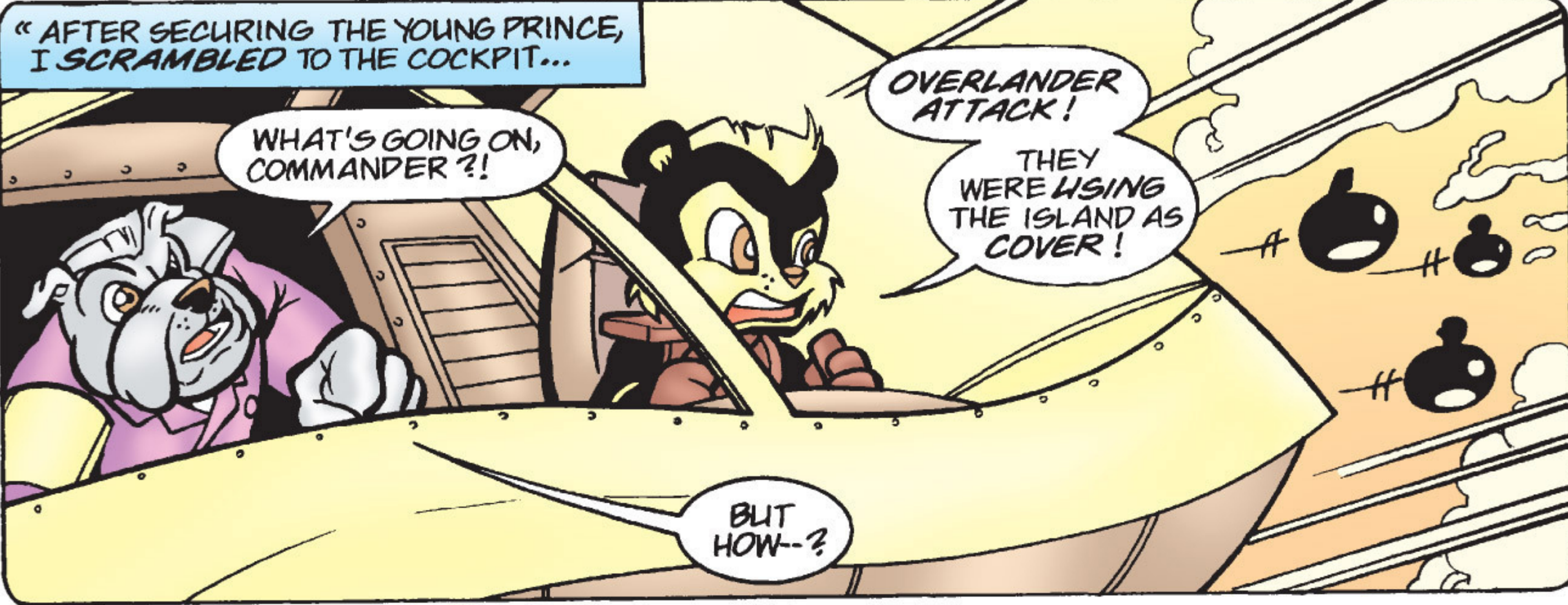
SECURE THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCE!!



ELIAS!! I MUST GET TO ELIAS!

WE'RE TAKING CARE OF HIM, YOUR MAJESTY!

YOUR SAFETY IS A PRIMARY CONCERN AS WELL!



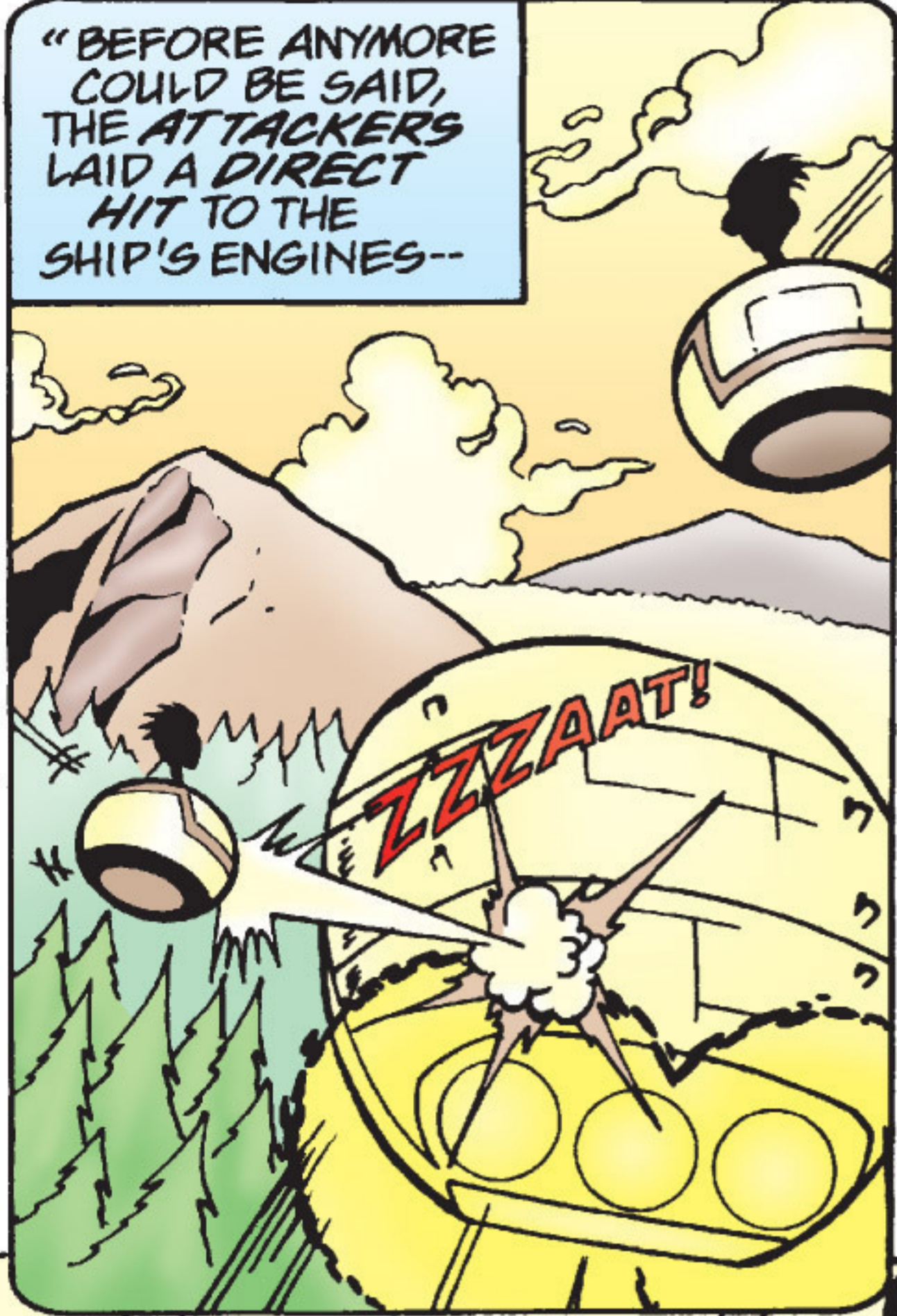
"AFTER SECURING THE YOUNG PRINCE, I SCRAMBLED TO THE COCKPIT..."

WHAT'S GOING ON, COMMANDER ?!

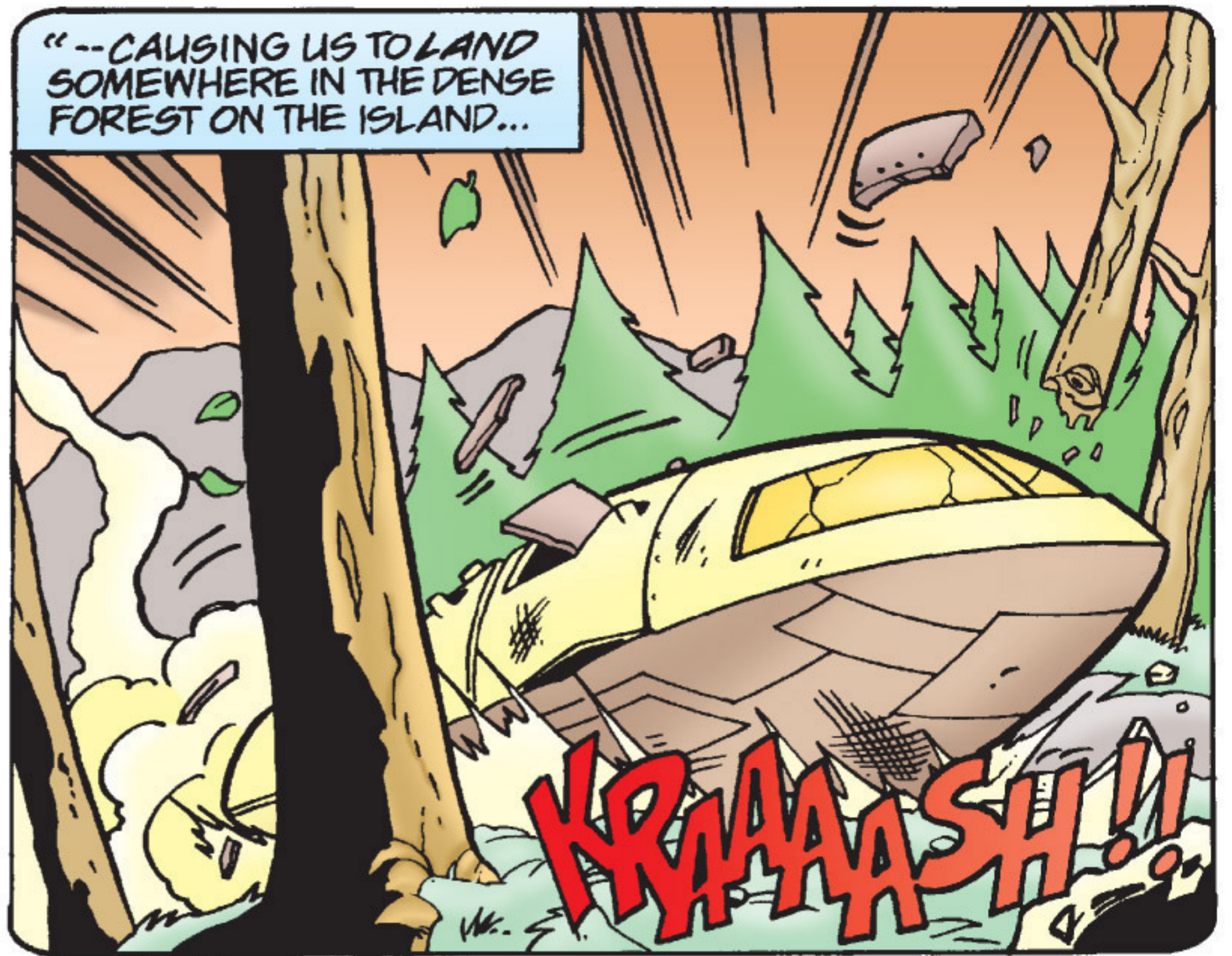
OVERLANDER ATTACK!

THEY WERE USING THE ISLAND AS COVER!

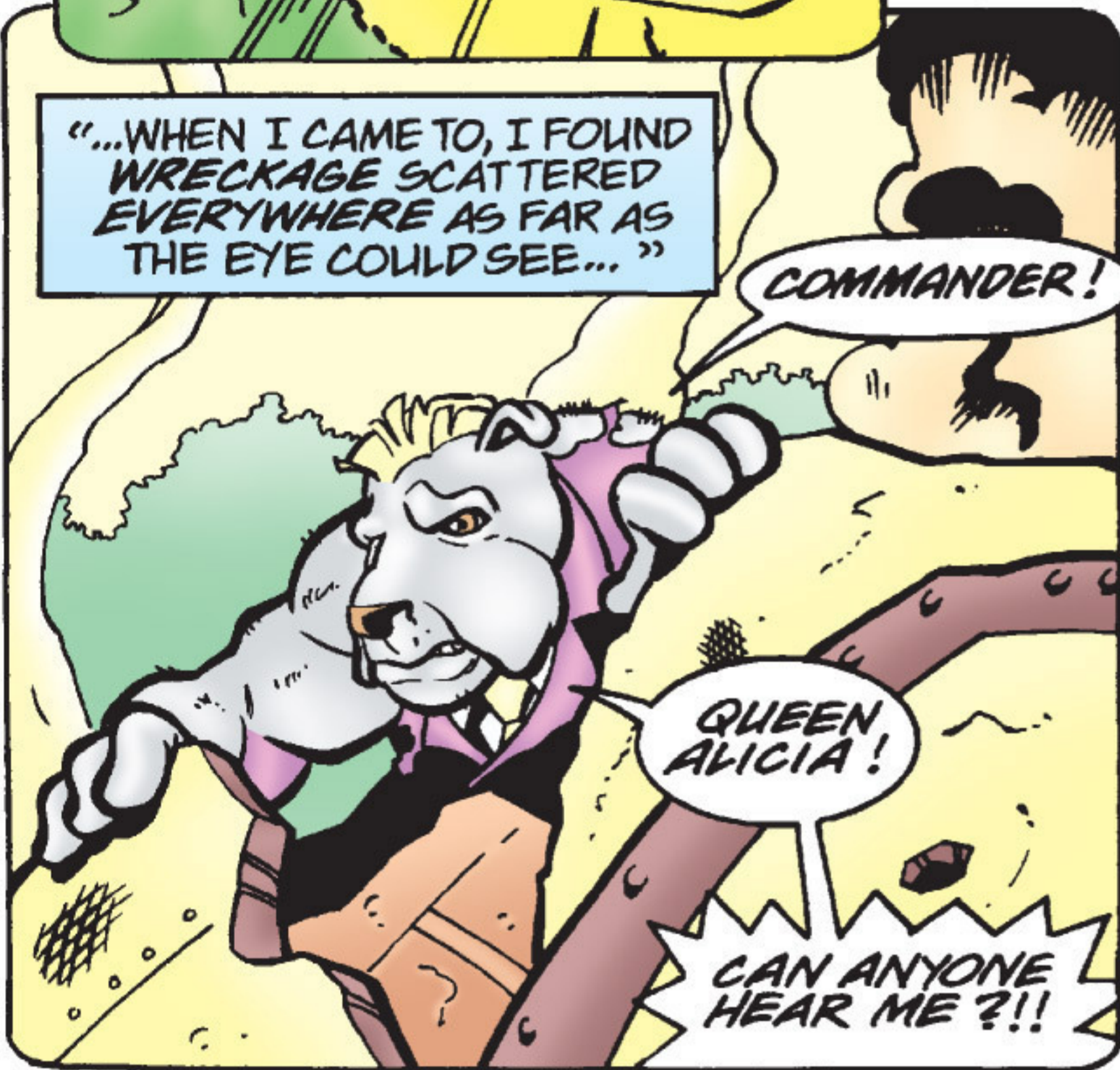
BUT HOW--?



"BEFORE ANYMORE
COULD BE SAID,
THE ATTACKERS
LAID A DIRECT
HIT TO THE
SHIP'S ENGINES--



"--CAUSING US TO LAND
SOMEWHERE IN THE DENSE
FOREST ON THE ISLAND...

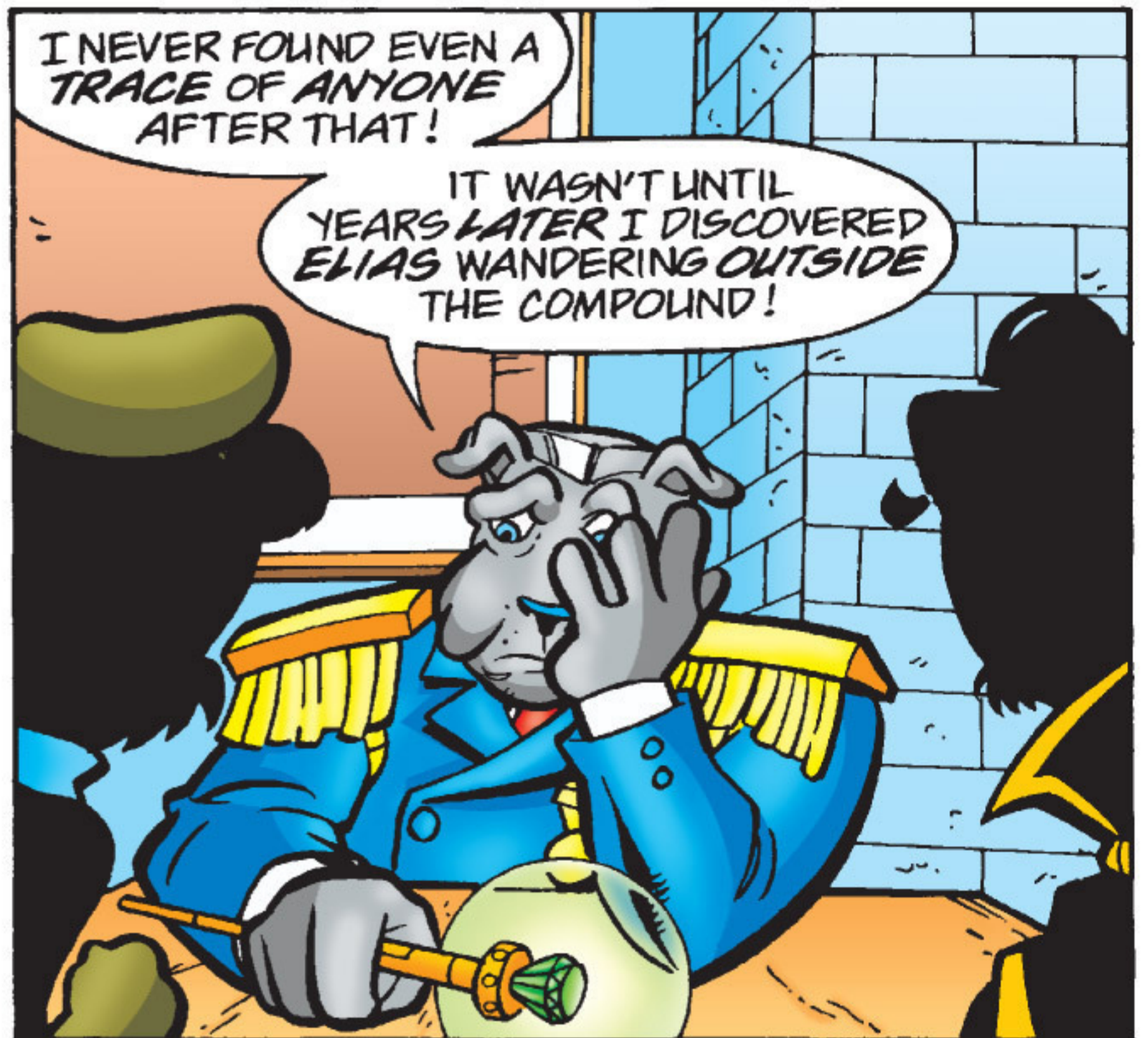


"...WHEN I CAME TO, I FOUND
WRECKAGE SCATTERED
EVERYWHERE AS FAR AS
THE EYE COULD SEE..."

COMMANDER!

QUEEN
ALICIA!

CAN ANYONE
HEAR ME?!!



I NEVER FOUND EVEN A
TRACE OF ANYONE
AFTER THAT!

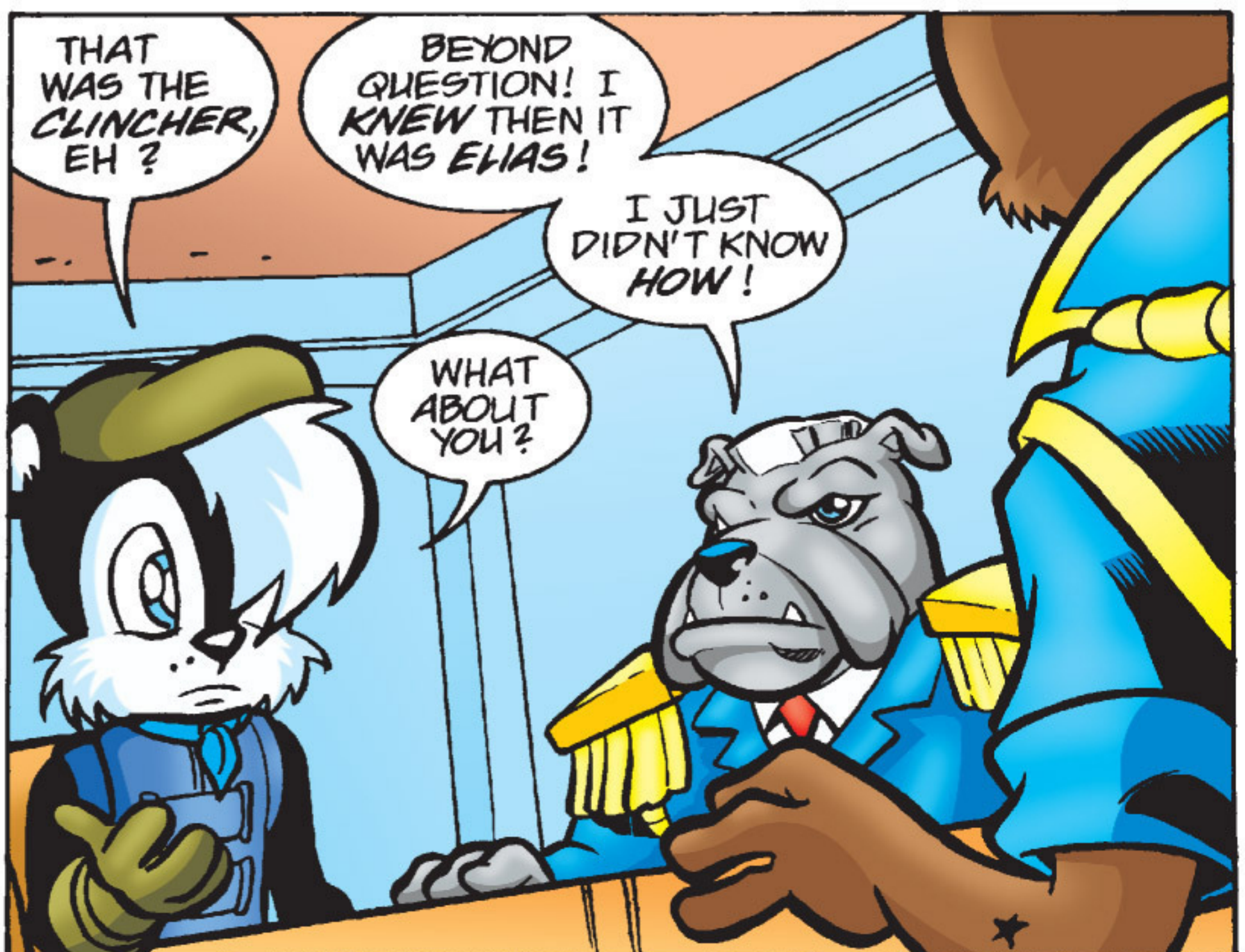
IT WASN'T UNTIL
YEARS LATER I DISCOVERED
ELIAS WANDERING OUTSIDE
THE COMPOUND!



"NATURALLY, I WAS
SUSPICIOUS..."

HOW
DO I KNOW
YOU'RE WHO
YOU CLAIM
YOU ARE?

OTHER THAN MY
FAMILY, ONLY THE
QUEEN'S
GUARDSMEN WOULD
RECOGNIZE THE
MARK I BEAR!

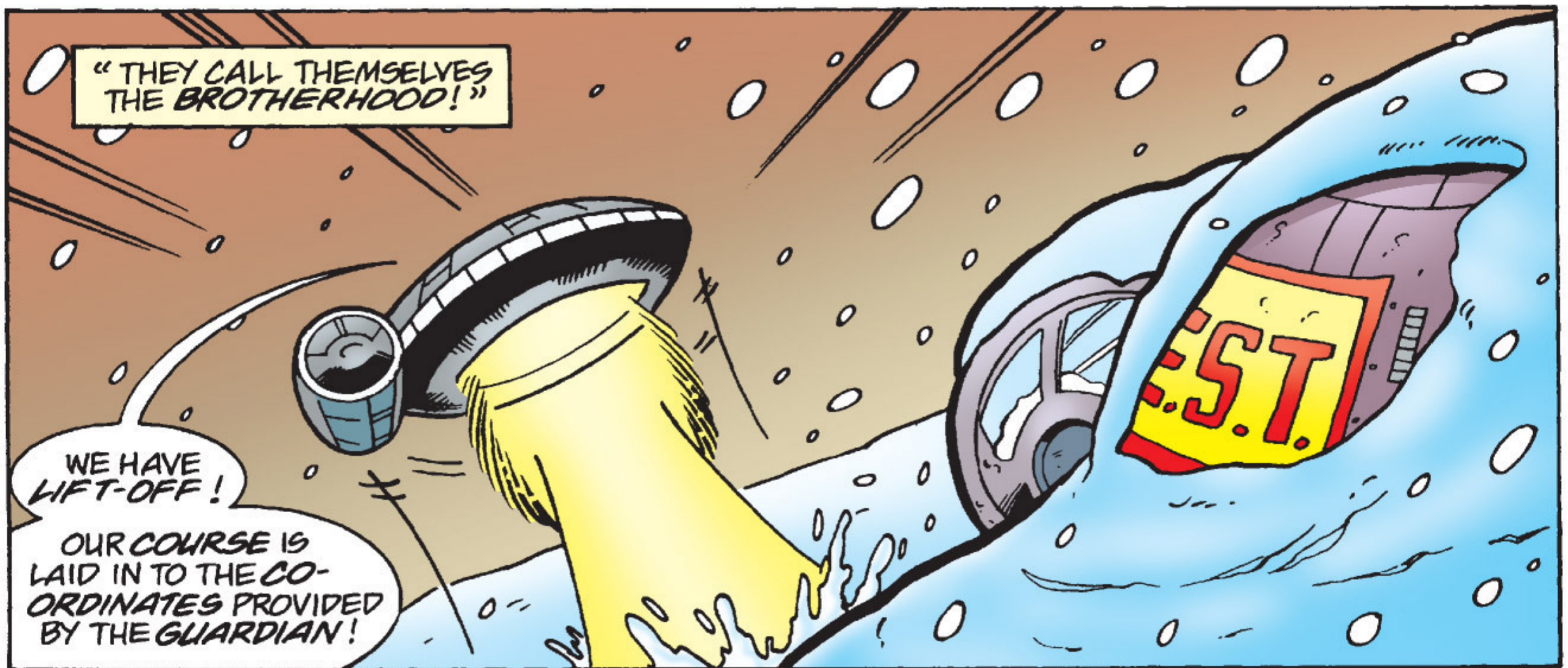


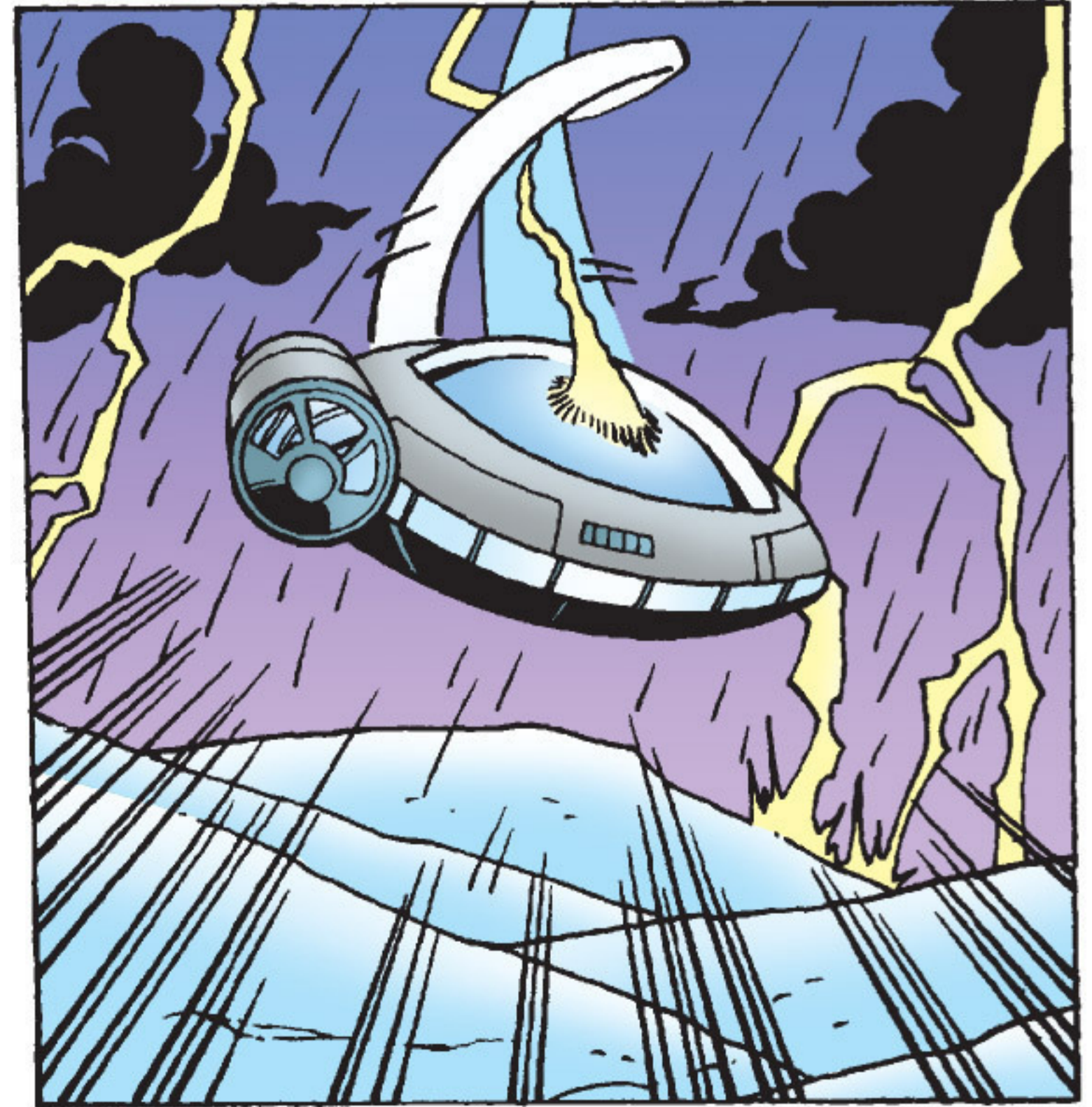
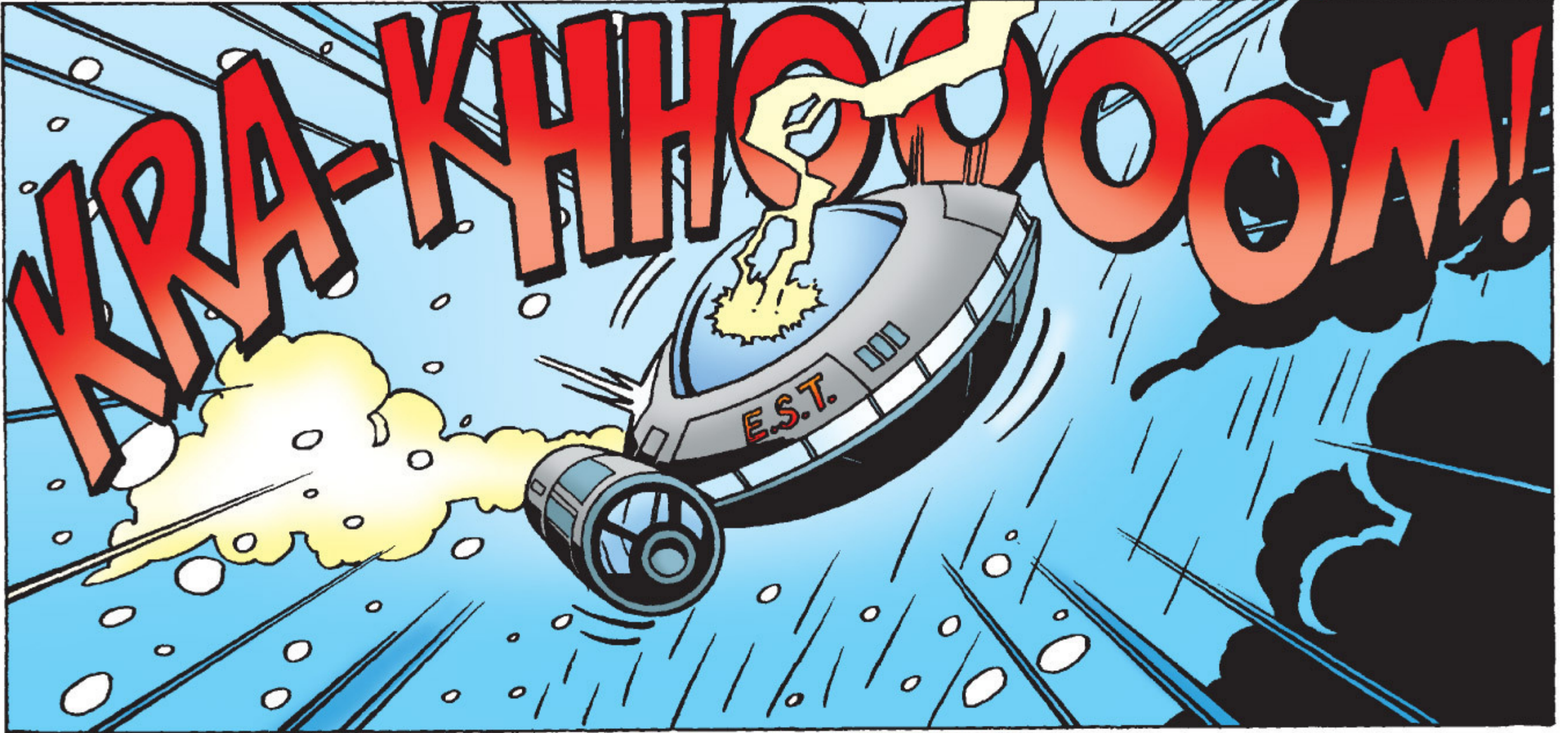
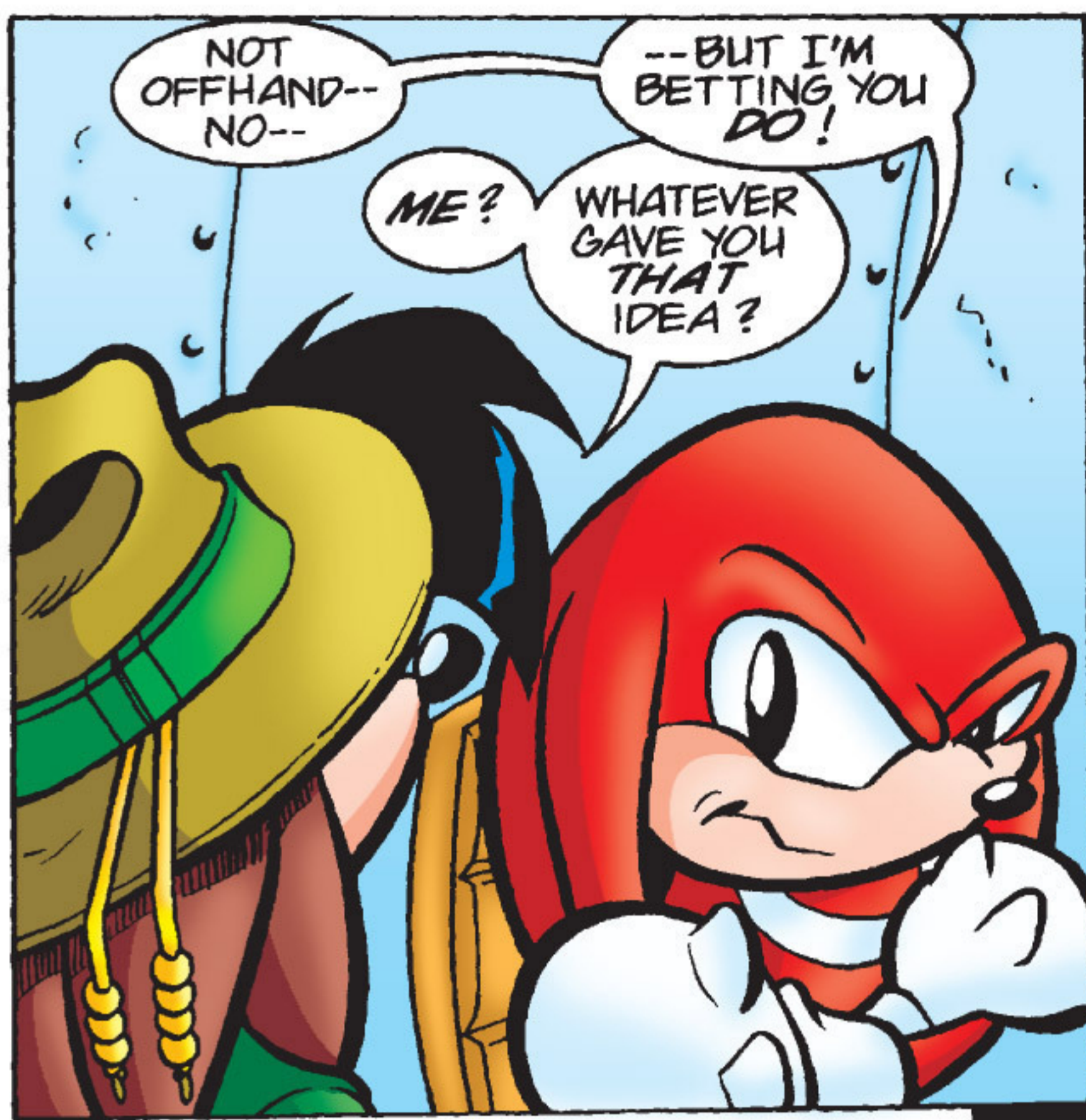
THAT
WAS THE
CLINCHER,
EH?

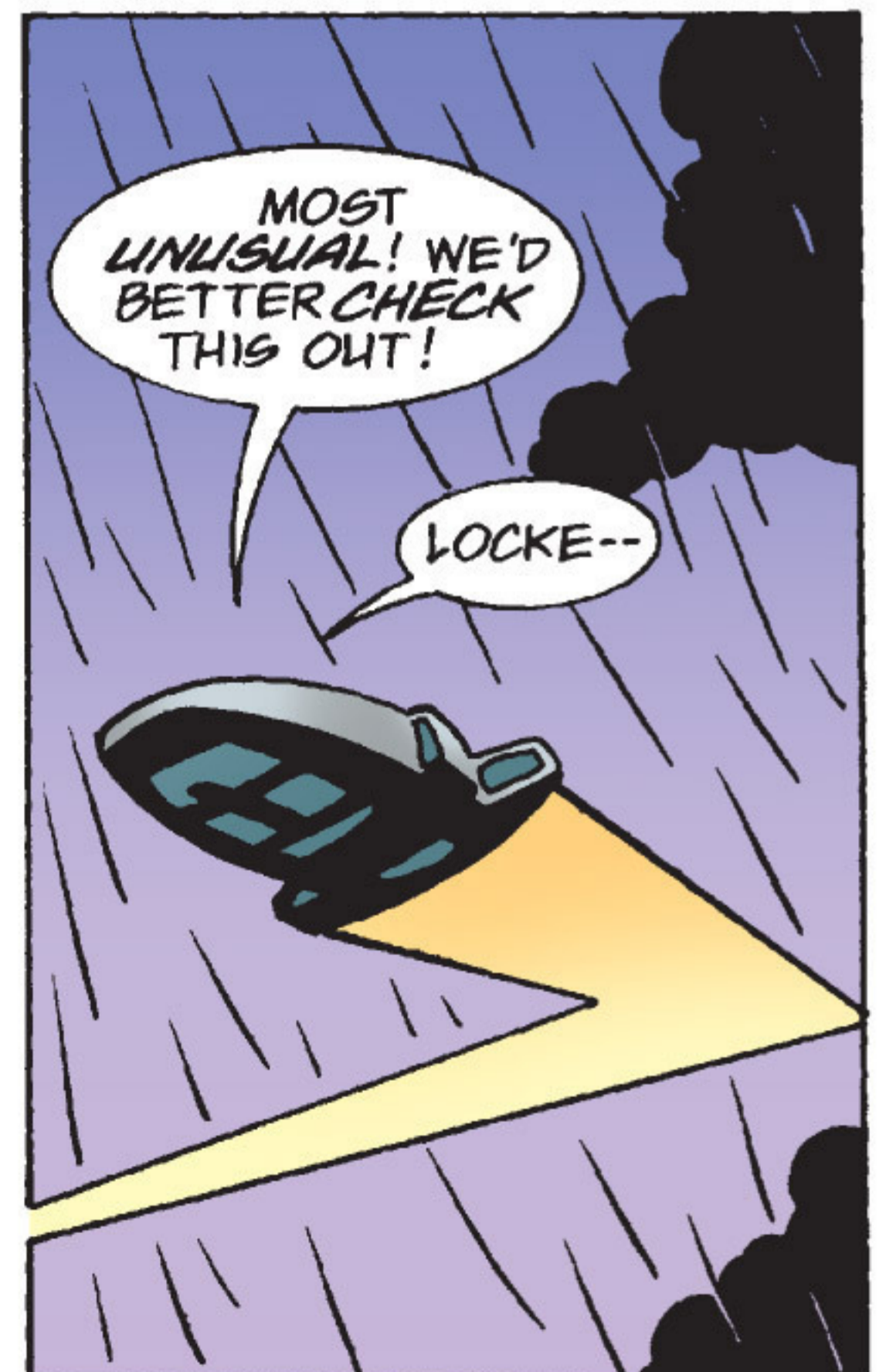
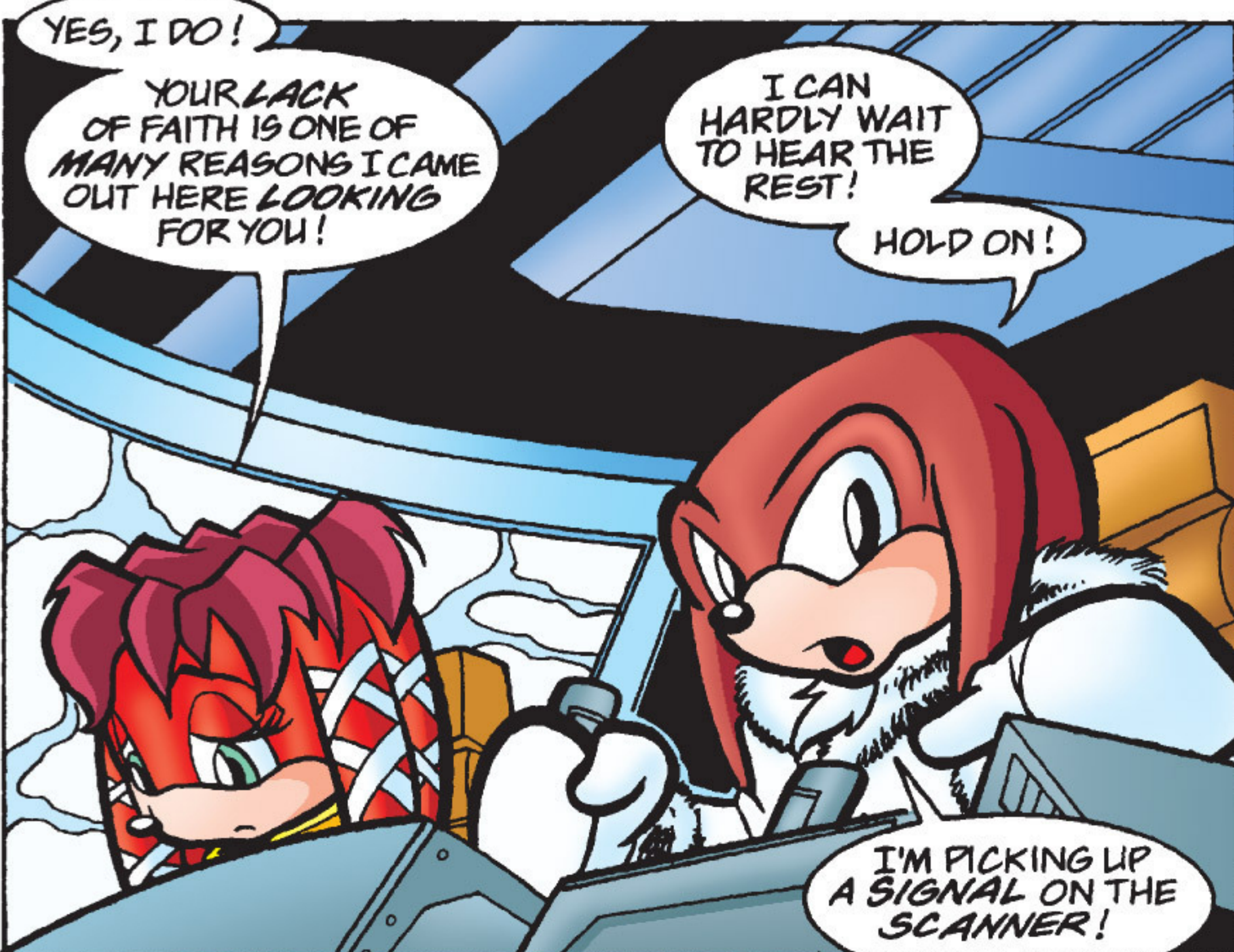
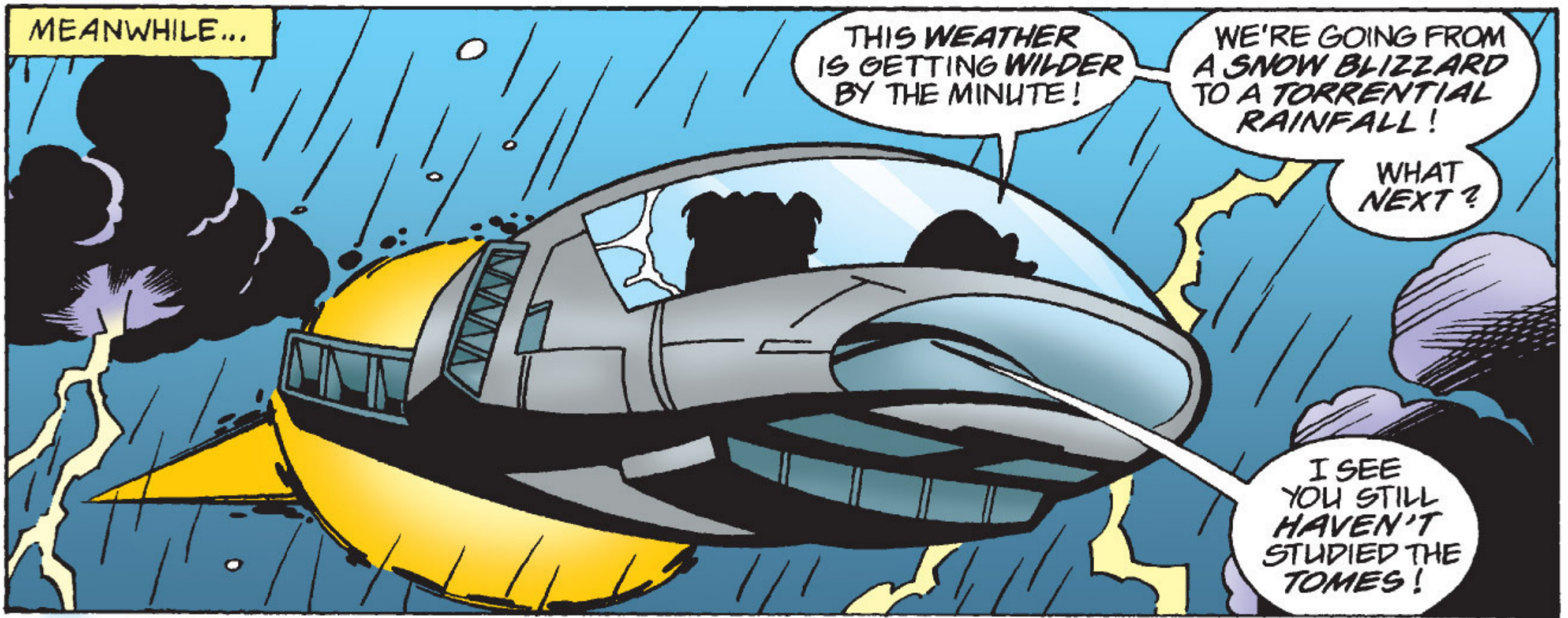
BEYOND
QUESTION! I
KNEW THEN IT
WAS ELIAS!

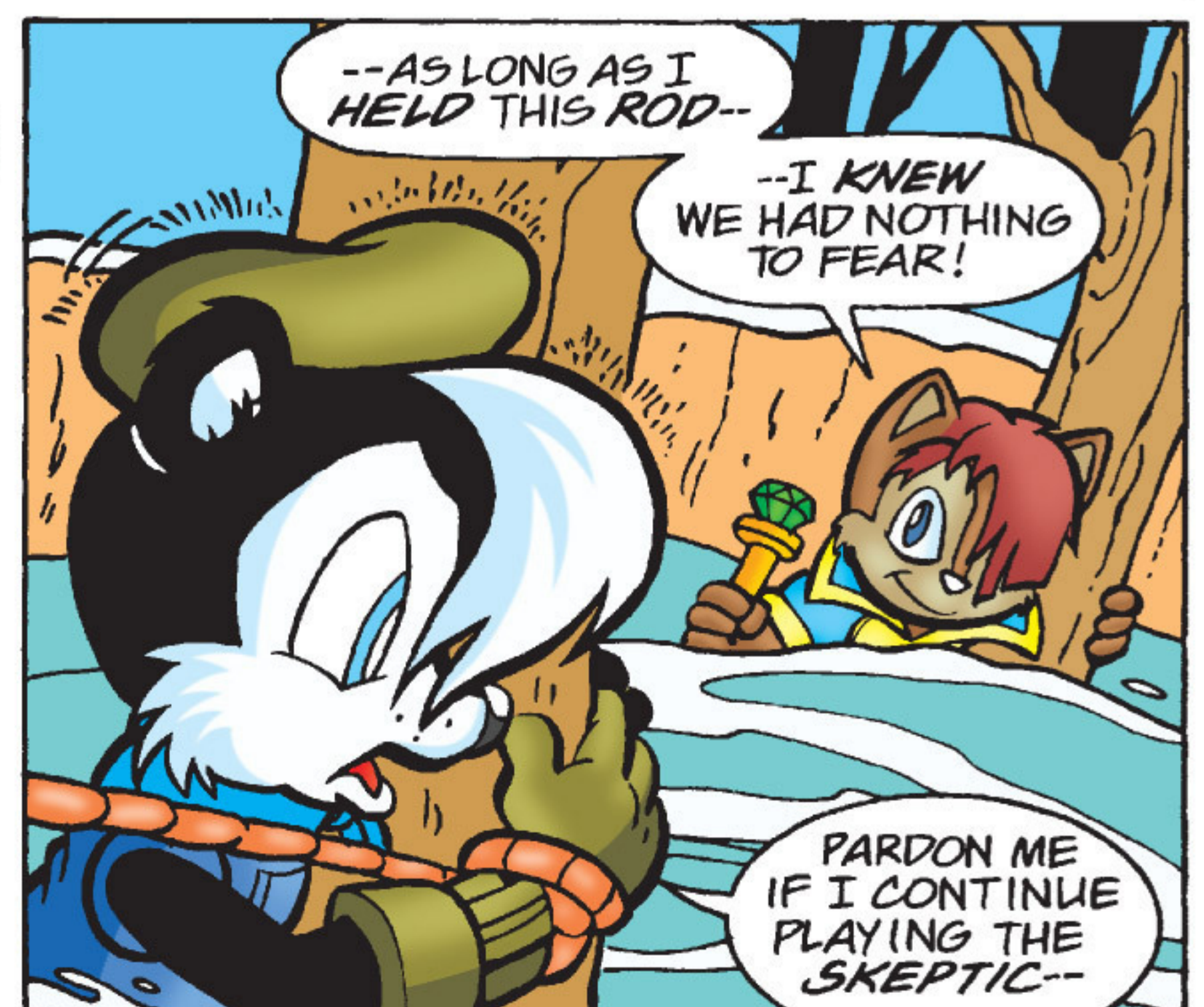
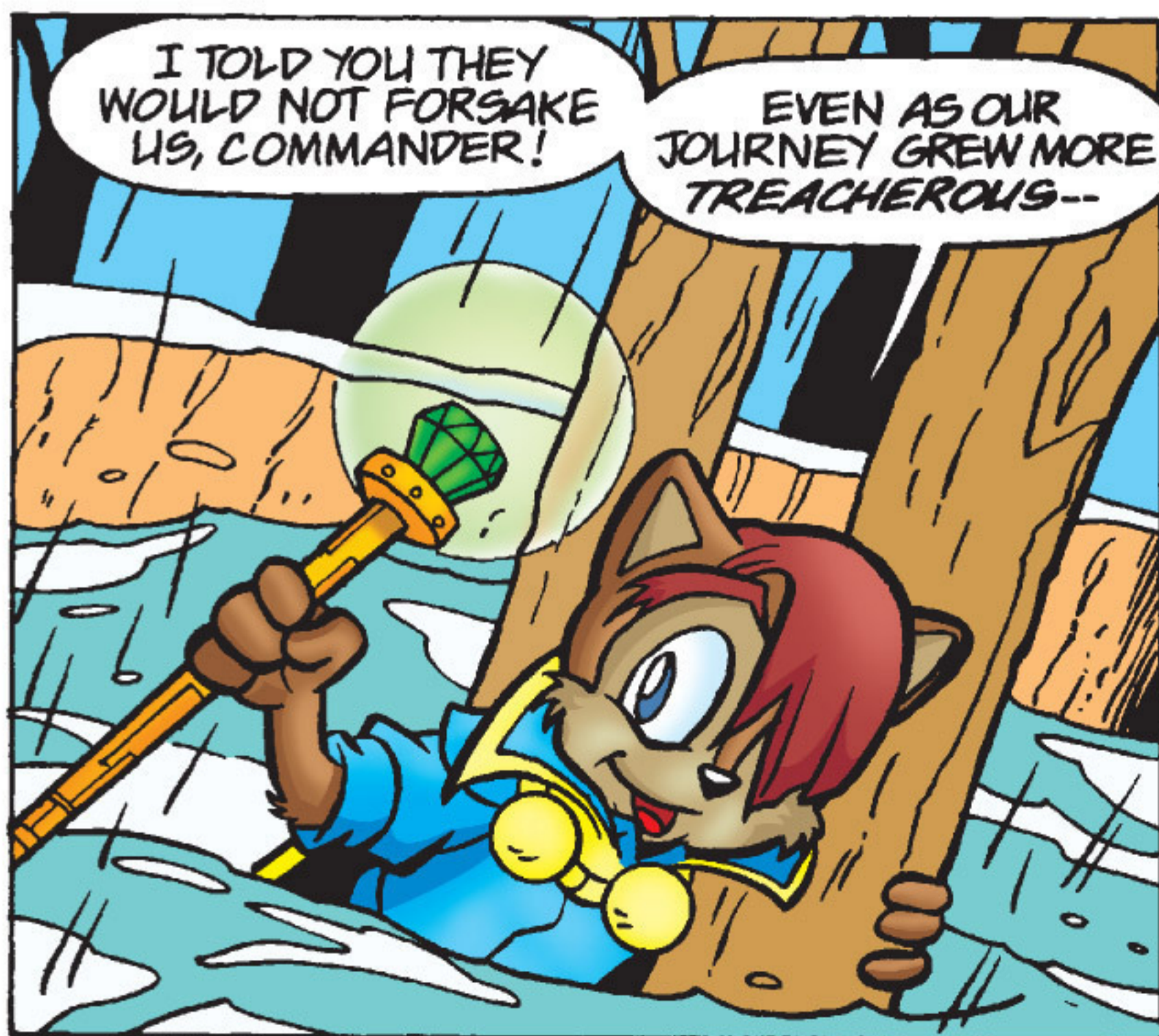
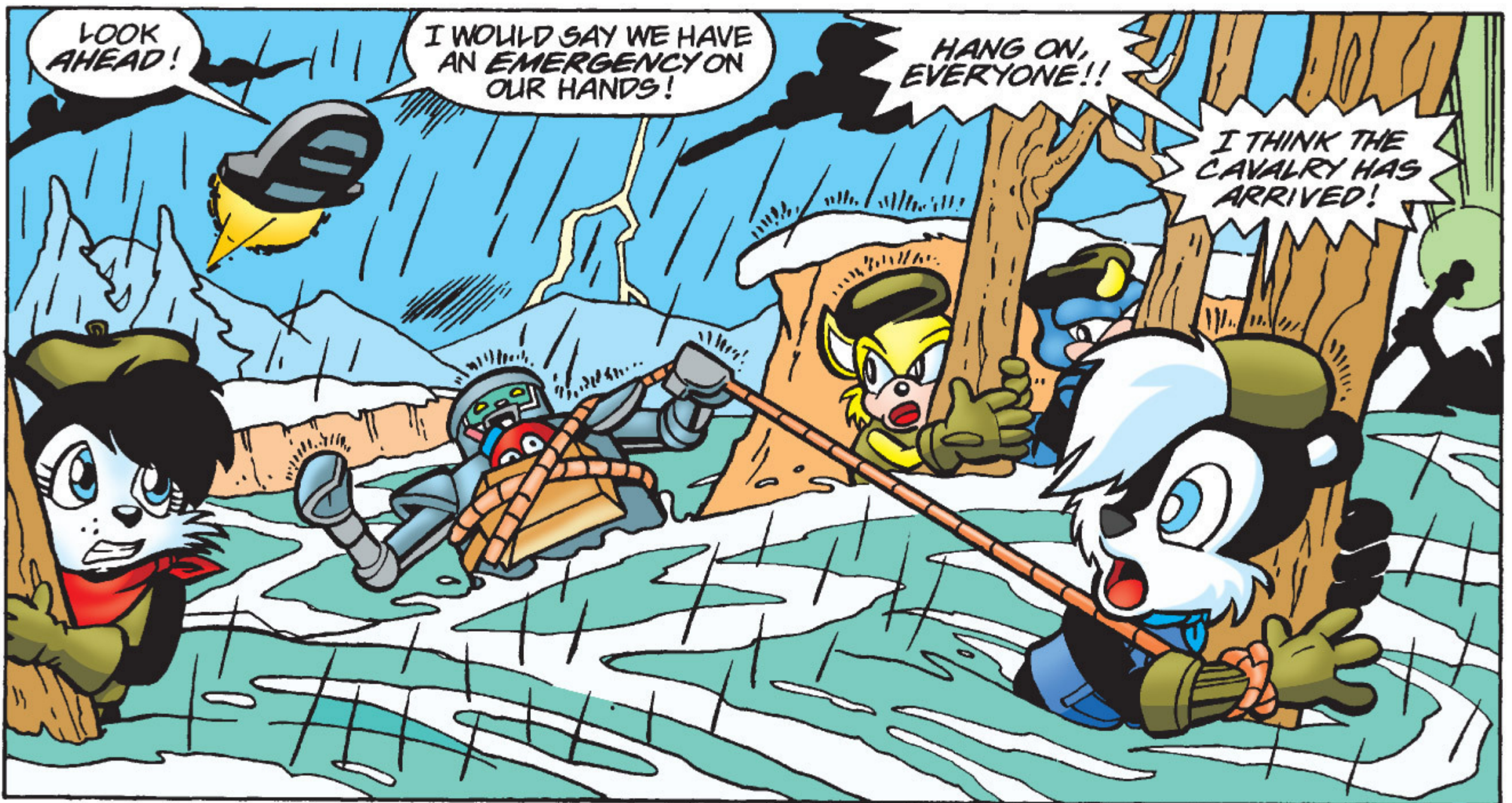
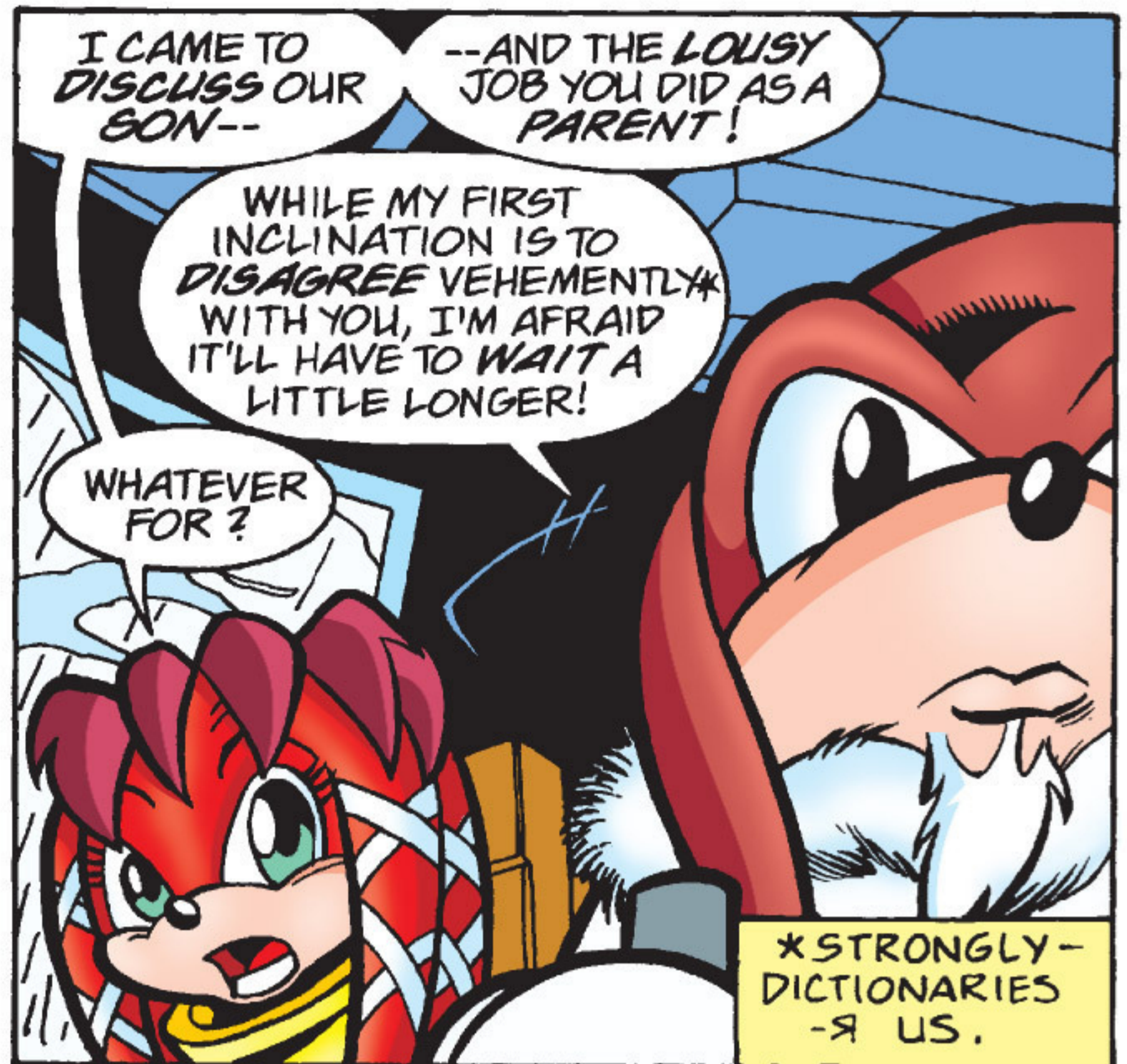
I JUST
DIDN'T KNOW
HOW!

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

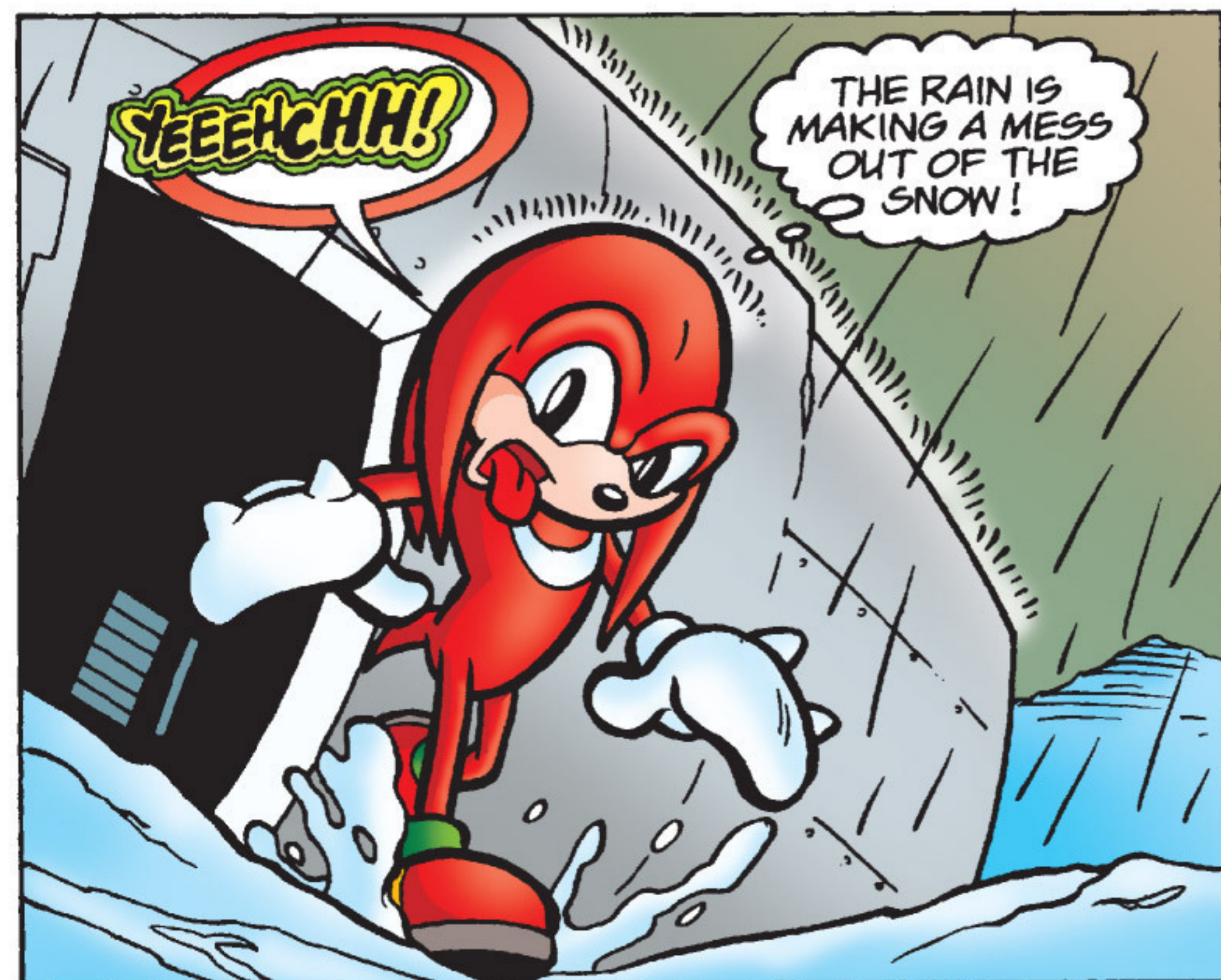
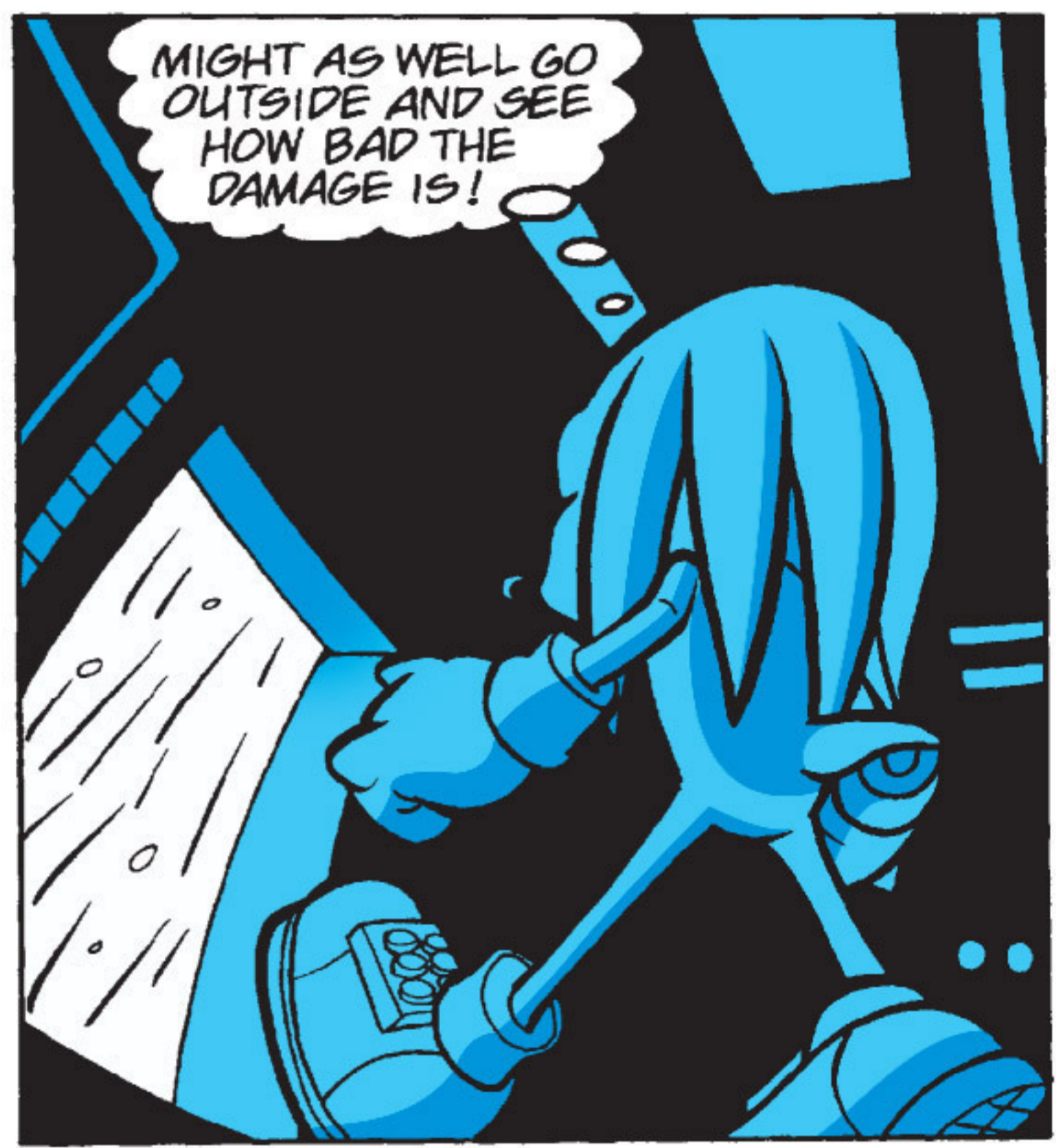
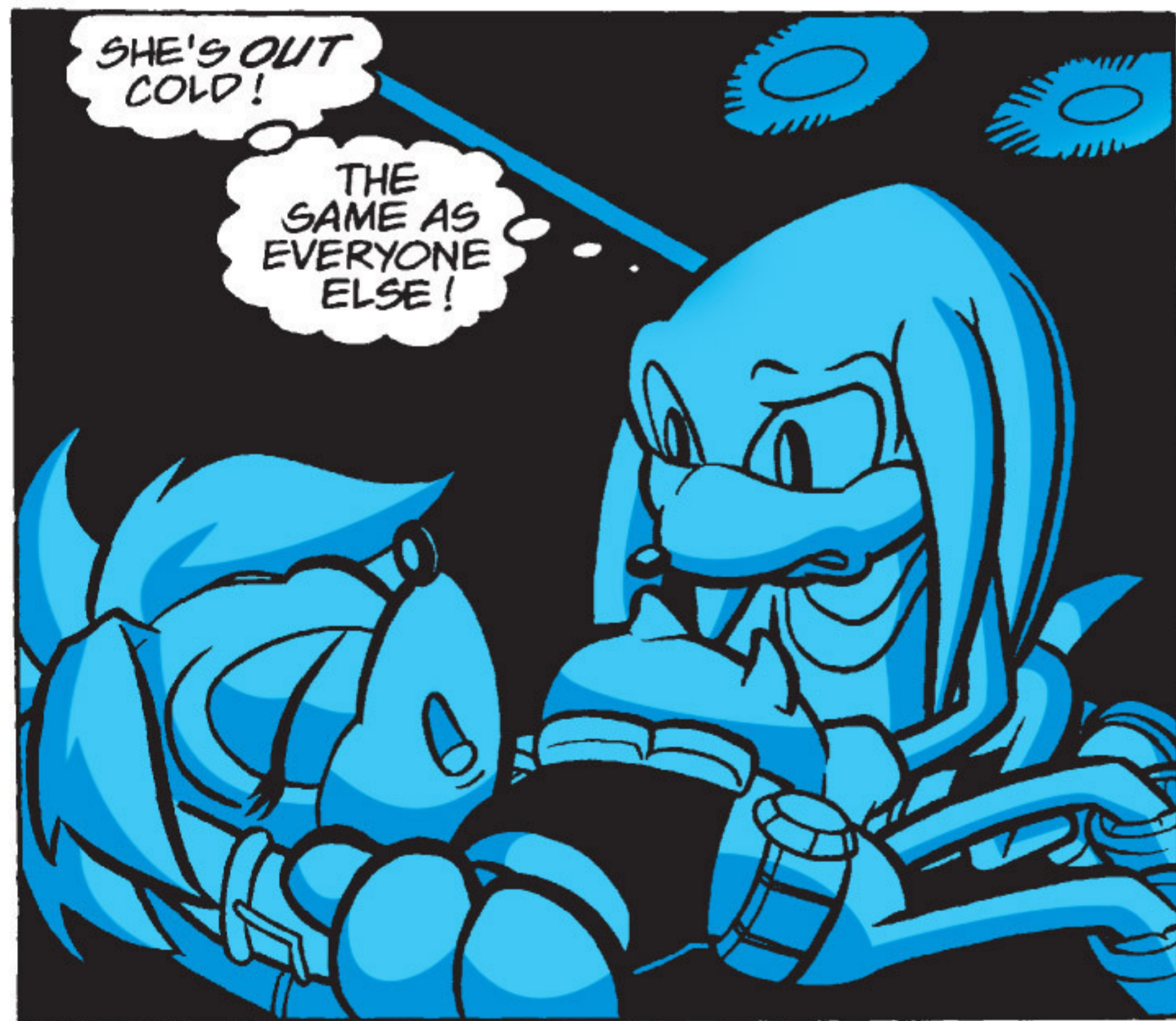
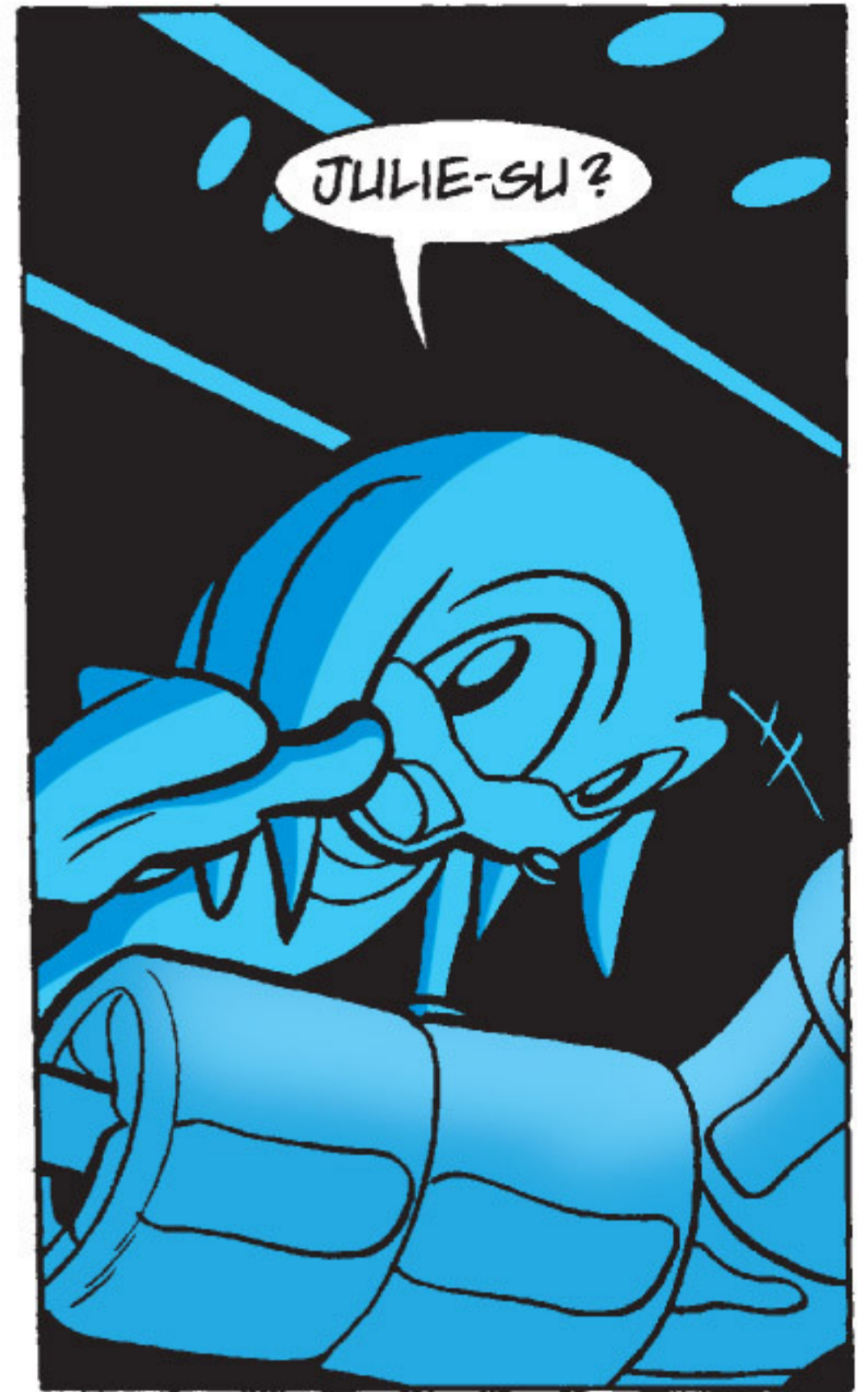
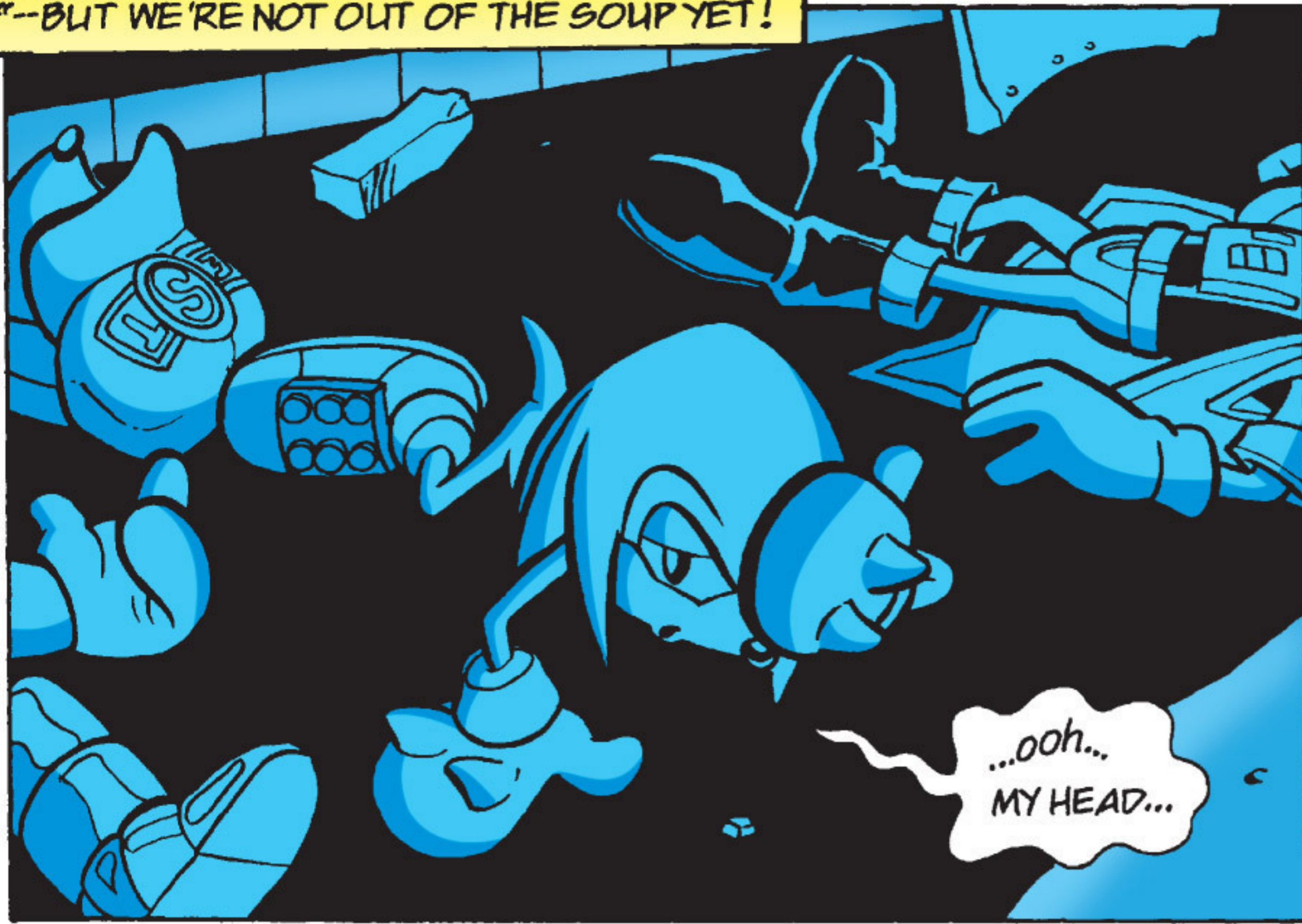


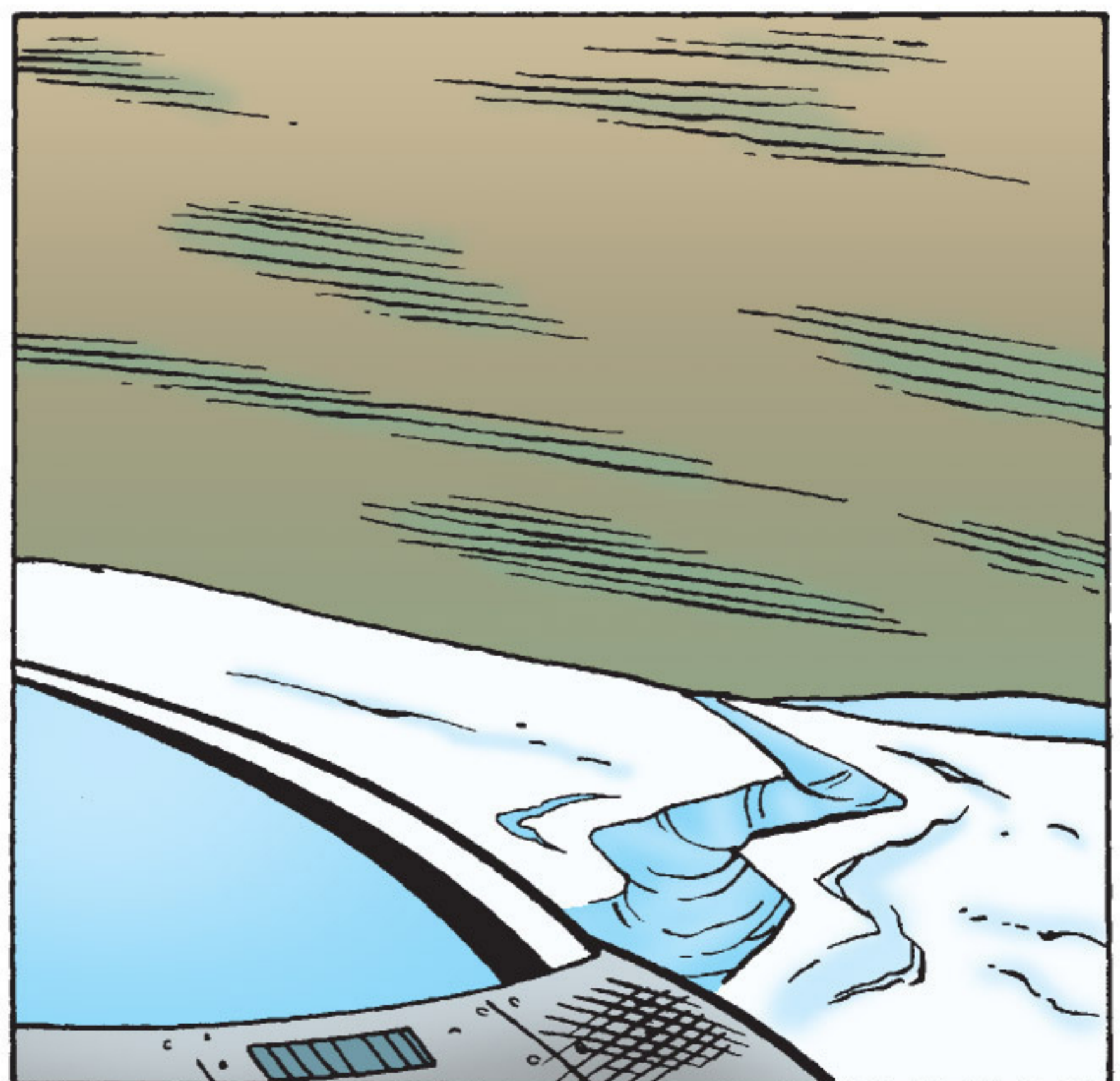
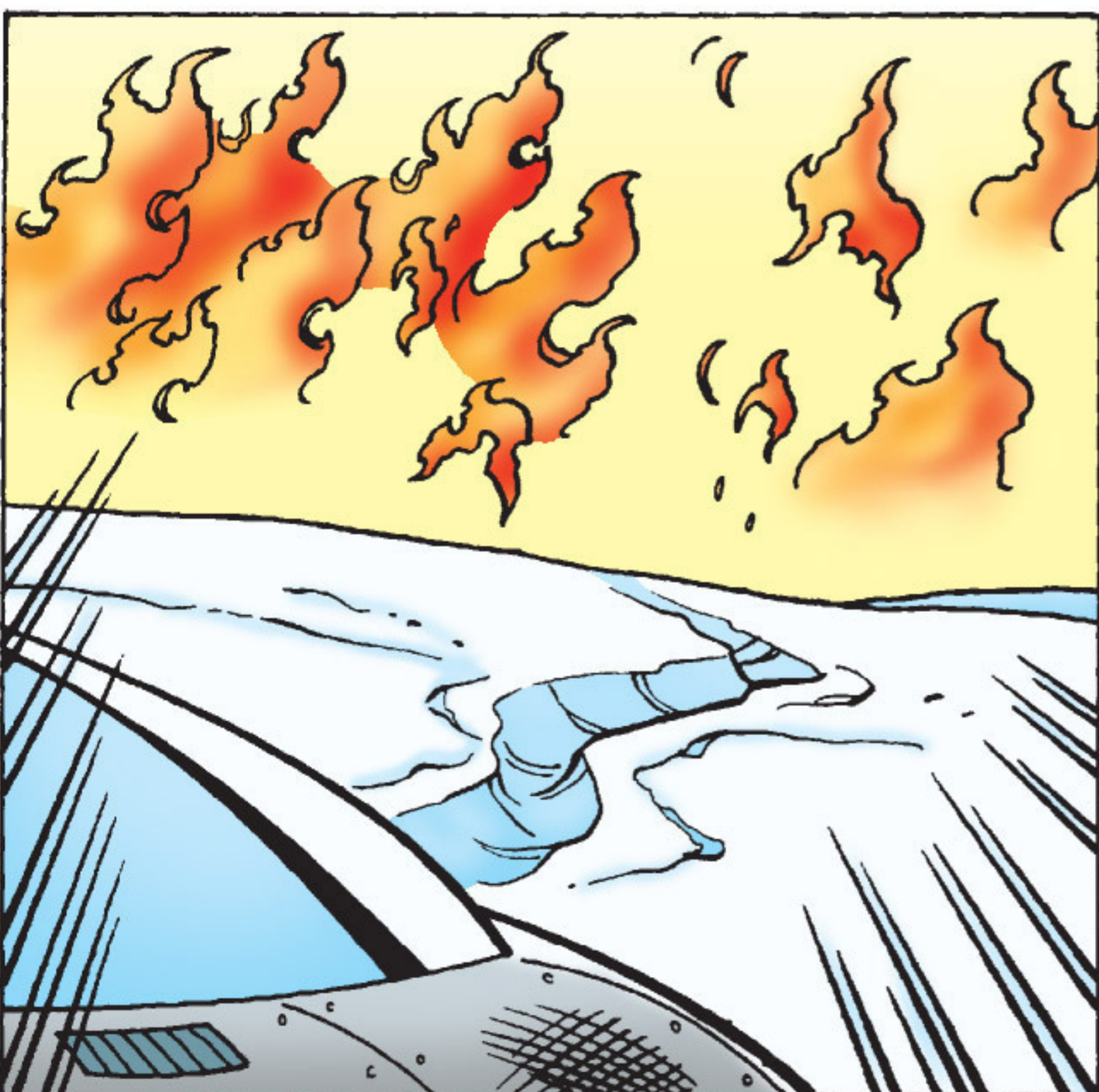
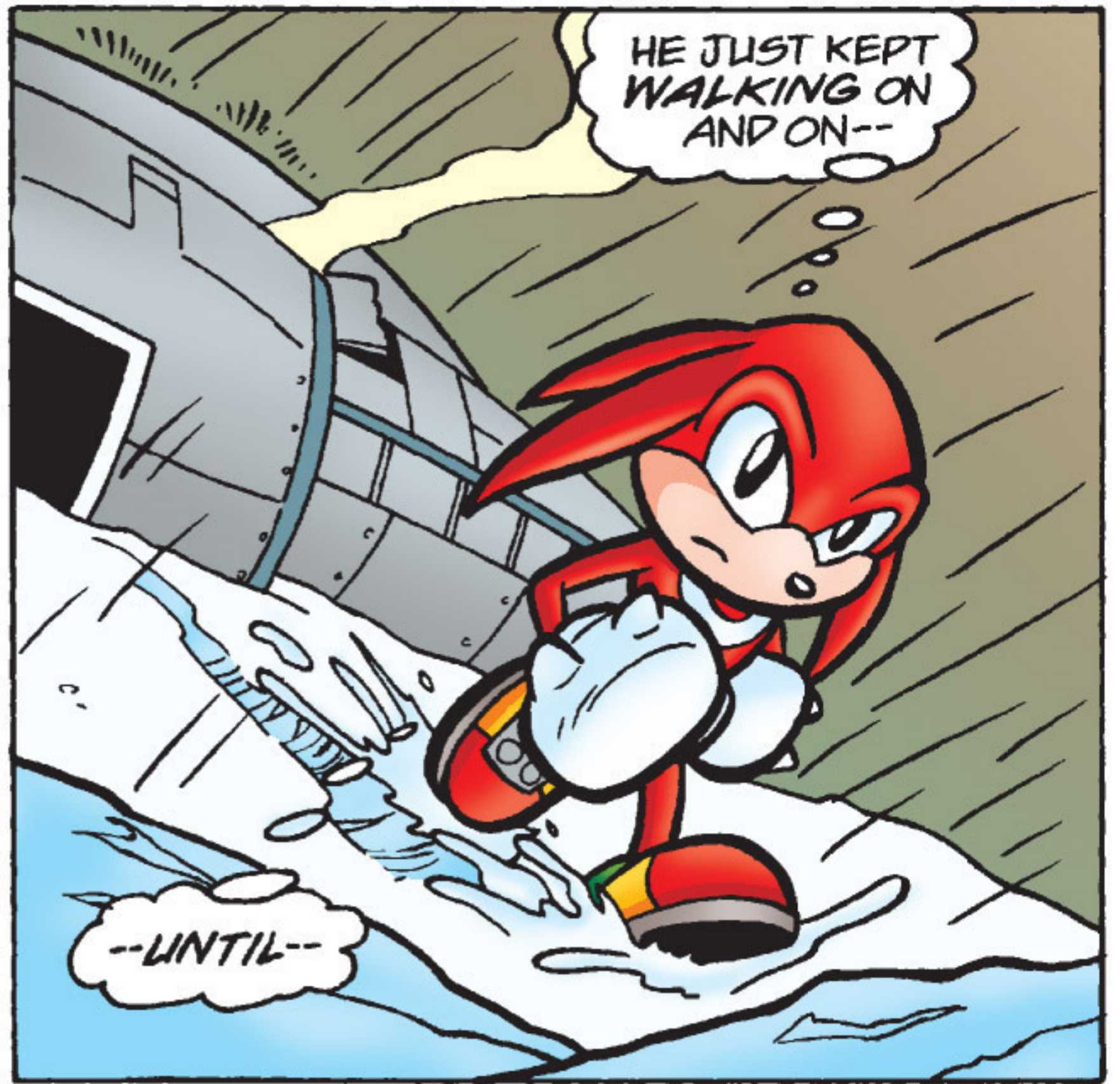
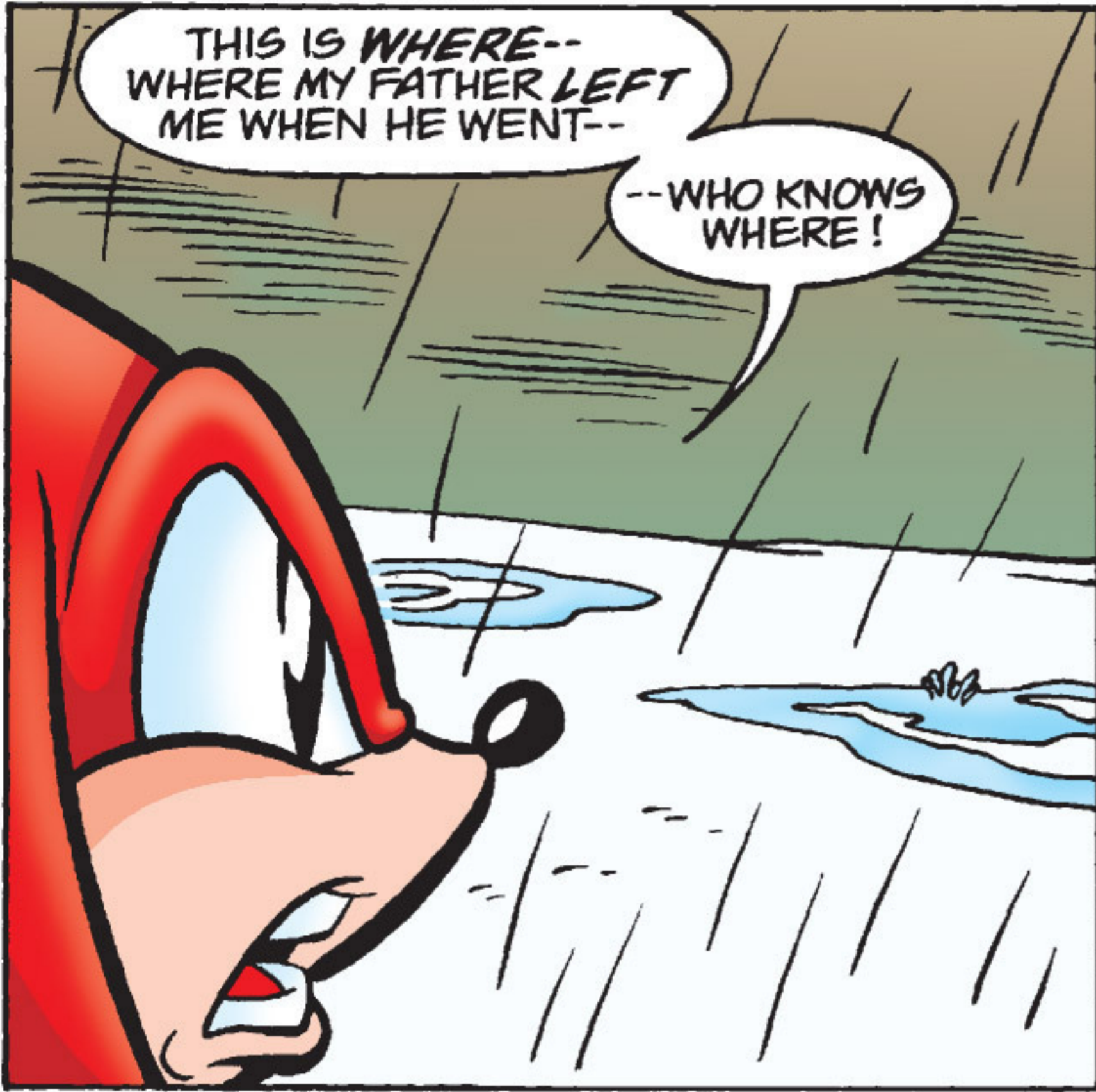






“--BUT WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE SOUP YET!







W-WHERE AM I?

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS NEXT ISSUE'S
ASTONISHING CONCLUSION!!
JUST TURN THE PAGE!

